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REVIEWS

RUSSIA AND THE CAUCASUS.

An Excursion in the Crimea, and along the Shores of the Caucasus—[*Excursion en Crimée, &c.*] By M. de St. Saveur. Paris, Didot; London, Dulau.

Russian Expeditions against the Circassians—[*Souvenirs des dernières Expéditions, &c.*] Paris, Vaton; London, Dulau.

More than four years have elapsed since the *Athenæum* directed public attention to the struggle going on between the Russians and the half-civilized hordes on its south-eastern frontiers.

In our 279th number we gave the only account, which has yet appeared in England, of the formidable rebellion excited in Daghestan, by the pretended prophet Kazi Mollah, and we then predicted that the suppression of that revolt would not destroy the spirit of independence in the hardy mountain tribes. Our prediction was fulfilled; the contest was transferred from the eastern to the western side of the Caucasus, and thus brought within the sphere of European sympathies. On the capture of the *Vizén* the English public first became sensible of the policy of Russia, and of its possible consequences; and we then (No. 491, 2, 3,) thought it advisable to give a general sketch of the history of those provinces, and of their social and political condition. Subsequently, a translation of *Taitbout de Maigny*, and the publication of Capt. Spencer's Travels, brought the subject again under consideration (Nos. 499 and 506); and the works at the head of this article, received from Paris, offer further information. The subject is one deserving great and vigilant attention; the commercial and political interests of Britain are, in a degree, involved in the struggle, for on its result will mainly depend the success of the projects of Russia for monopolizing the trade of the Black Sea, and establishing her supremacy over all the countries between the eastern seas of Europe and the Caspian. A glance at the map

will show that the acquisitions of Russia, by the treaty of Adrianople, would be altogether worthless, if the Circassians maintained their state of hostile independence; the mountaineers are masters of the principal lines of communication, and their fastnesses command the fertile plains of Georgia, Imeretia, and Mingrelia. The aggressive course of policy adopted by the court of St. Petersburg must, in some degree, be regarded as defensive, for the Circassians seriously impede the progress of that commerce which has already changed many deserts in southern Russia and the Crimea into blooming gardens; and their example is of dangerous import to the half-subdued tribes of Daghestan.

The long and profitless warfare carried on against these mountain tribes, has shown an element of weakness in Russia, which had very generally escaped observation. It is now more than seven years ago, that Marshal Paskiewicz invaded Circassia, and, after a campaign of incessant hardships and losses, he retreated back to Russia thoroughly disheartened. The war of Poland prevented the Emperor from making any fresh and vigorous effort to retrieve this ill fortune. During more than four years the Russian frontiers remained exposed to the forays of the mountaineers; while the reprisals of the imperial Cossacks, though equally cruel, were far from

being profitable, as the Circassians had removed their wealth to impervious fastnesses. Cruelty and duplicity, if we may put faith in the published reports, were subsequently employed by the Russian authorities without scruple; the second pamphlet on our list gives many anecdotes in proof; we shall extract one, because it illustrates Circassian manners. It is only necessary to premise, that General Zass is one of the wardens of the line of posts between the Caspian and the Black Sea, and has earned an unenviable notoriety for the cruelty of his reprisals on the Circassians.

There was a young Circassian, named Ahmek, in that part of the country subject to Russia, whose bravery and intelligence rendered him an object of suspicion to General Zass. It was believed that he took an active part in the enterprises directed against the Russians, but there were no proofs of his treason, and General Zass knew not how to get rid of so dangerous a friend. One day Ahmek came to the General's quarters, and after many protestations of loyalty and attachment to those whom he called his protectors, he asked if Zass would aid him in a dangerous enterprise he was about to attempt. "I wish," said he, "to marry old Bislenieff's daughter, but he sets too high a price upon her; I cannot raise the purchase money, and he will not abate a farthing. I am resolved to run away with her and I hope you will give me your assistance." The General resisted for some time, but at length feigning assent, he asked "When do you wish to make the attempt?" "To-morrow." "I could not do it to-morrow," said Zass, "but as no one has seen you come into the house, stay until night, and I will get a small troop ready; you must, however, keep the matter a profound secret, for I would not wish your countrymen to know that I meddle with their affairs." Ahmek assented with gratitude. Zass, under pretence of making arrangements, sent off a Cossack to betray the whole matter to Bislenieff. In the evening Ahmek departed full of hope; when he approached the house, he desired the Cossacks to halt, while he advanced to reconnoitre; but he fell, as was designed, into the ambush prepared for him by the father and relatives of his fair one, and, of course, was ruthlessly massacred.

It was in 1834 that a regular series of operations for the reduction of Circassia was commenced by General Weliaminoff; his plan was to open a military road between Ekatherinadar and Anapa, and to secure the communication by a chain of posts. The campaign lasted six months, the Circassians were twice defeated, but at a very disproportionate loss to the victors; the road to Anapa was opened, several *haouts*, or Circassian villages, were destroyed, and two fortresses erected, which covered the principal entrances into southern Russia from the Caucasus.

During

the winter the Circassians made several attempts to surprise the Russians. One of these deserves to be recorded.

Sixty Shapshuk cavaliers crossed the Kuban, a little above Ekatherinadar, resolving to march upon Stawropol (the capital of Russian Circassia), and set fire to the city. In order to reach it, they had to travel a distance of 350 versts (250 miles) through the territories of the Cossacks. It is not easy to comprehend how they escaped the vigilant watch which is maintained along the entire line. However, they did escape, and were already at the very gates of Stawropol before their approach was suspected. A peasant, returning to the city, discovered them while they were concealing themselves to await the approach of night. The military governor, on receiving the information, surrounded the wood in

which the Circassians were concealed with some hundred Cossacks. The Shapshuks discovering, from the tramp of horses and clash of arms, that their lurking-place was detected, adopted a resolution equally prompt and energetic. As soon as they perceived the Cossacks, they formed a rampart of the bodies of their horses, which they were resolved should not fall alive into the hands of their enemies. After the first discharge of their carbines, almost every shot of which told, they broke them to pieces, to render them useless, and engaged their enemies hand to hand. At the close of the battle the earth remained covered with the bodies of the sixty Shapshuks, with a far greater number of Cossacks, and with the horses and broken weapons of the combatants.

Before the opening of the next campaign, the Russian Emperor ordered that one officer out of every regiment of the guards should be employed in the Circassian war, and numbers of the unfortunate Poles were sent on the same dangerous service. Indeed, the Caucasian provinces are regarded as a place of honourable banishment; and the officers were a strange mixture of adventurers from different countries, with Polish delinquents, Russian nobles who had engaged in the military conspiracy of 1825, and volunteers from the imperial guard. The prudent precautions which Weliaminoff had taken in the preceding year, the vast quantity of munitions and military stores provided by the government, and the ardour of several volunteers eager for promotion, seemed to promise certain success; but the Circassians, though they possessed neither bayonets nor cannon, made a heroic resistance, and gained several important advantages. In everything like a general engagement, the Russians were victorious, but they were almost invariably defeated in skirmishes and sudden guerrilla attacks. The officer, from whose journal we have already made some extracts, says—

It frequently happened that the Russian troops, entangled in a forest of which they knew neither the extent nor the passes, have been surprised during the night; the Circassians then profiting by their exact knowledge of the country, attacked their enemies in front, flank, and rear, at the same time, and threw them into disorder, which, in spite of the excellent discipline of the Russians, it was impossible to avoid, for the soldiers, eager to repulse the Circassians, fired upon each other. The officers, in spite of all their efforts, can do nothing under such unfortunate circumstances; they are obliged to wait until the dawn releases them from such a cruel state of uncertainty. But it sometimes occurs that their losses are so considerable, that the weakened detachment is unable to continue its resistance, and falls entirely into the power of the Circassians.

After all the expenditure of blood and treasure in the campaign of 1835, the Russians were unable to make any permanent territorial acquisition; and in 1836 they were still less successful. The military road between Ekatherinadar and Anapa has been opened, and tolerably well protected by a chain of posts; but beyond their fortifications they do not possess one inch of ground.

It has been seriously proposed to hunt down the Circassians, and remove them from their native mountains to some of the plains in the interior of Russia; but the execution of such a project would require an army of a hundred thousand men, a vast expenditure of money, and a stricter blockade than the mountains of Daghestan will permit on one side, or the peculiar nature of the coast on the other. At present, the Russians are unable to push their chain of

forts beyond the line established in 1834; and even within this limit their insecurity is so great, that the Emperor Nicholas, in his late tour, was forced to turn back from his proposed journey to Georgia, through the lines of the Caucasus. The Circassians have learned to manufacture gunpowder, the materials of which are abundant in their country, and light Turkish barks succeed almost daily in evading the Russian blockade. Still, it must not be forgotten, that the territory of the Circassians is all but isolated, for the Russian provinces hem it in on three sides, and the coast already secured by the strong fortifications at Anapa, Redont-Kale, and Poti, is about to be fenced by a series of castles and block-houses on the principal headlands, which will render any communication with the gallant mountaineers all but impossible.

It is well known that the nature of the Circassian war renders it peculiarly hazardous and costly; but the pacification of this vast mountain chain is too essential to the prosperity of the Russian empire to be neglected. The example, too, of the Circassians, if successful, would influence not only the Caucasian hordes, but all the Tartar tribes between the Kuban, the Don, and the Volga. It is in its southern provinces that Russia is accumulating the elements of its future development; the peninsula of the Crimea, especially, has advanced rapidly in agriculture and in commerce; towns which have lain in ruins since the days of Mithridates are rising with more than their former splendour; and harbours, deserted for more than five centuries, exhibit more life and activity than they did in the most flourishing days of the trade of Genoa. So little is known of the vast progress made by Russia in this direction, that we should find it very difficult to compress into a reasonable space even an outline of the recent improvements. The harbour of Sebastopol is now one of the chief naval stations of Russia; it was wholly unknown before the Crimea was subjected to the empire, but it appears now to be one of the best in the world. It is thus described by Marshal Marmont.

The port is magnificent; nature has done everything for it. The entrance of its deep roadstead is about seven hundred fathoms in breadth, wide enough to facilitate navigation, and allow vessels to tack, but sufficiently narrow to break the force of the sea and admit of easy defence. It is protected by batteries mounting three hundred and fifty pieces of cannon, to which eighteen mortars à la Paixhans are about to be added, and could not be forced. This entrance leads to several inner havens, formed by different creeks, or valleys, abutting on the principal valley, which offer sailors a choice of the most advantageous anchorage, according to the circumstances of the season. There is good holding-ground everywhere, and an equal depth of water up to the very shore. One might compare it to a tree, whose branches taper to a point. It is a repetition of what is seen at Malta, only that the channel is broader and the harbour more extensive; indeed, it could accommodate a fleet consisting of a limitless number of vessels.

The Russian squadron in the Black Sea has its head-quarters at Sebastopol; it consists generally of twelve or fifteen sail of the line.* When M. St. Saveur visited the place, he found there—

The admiral's ship, the *Warsaw*, a superb three-decker of 130 guns, and near her a division composed of four 80 gun ships, four 60 gun ships, and two or three brigs.... The crews of the vessels are soldiers and sailors at the same time, and are drawn from the recruits of the army. Every vessel has its own barrack, which is named after the ship, and near which she is moored. The sailors are always sent to their barracks when their ship is laid up in ordinary. Hence the crews can be promptly got on board in cases of emergency, and the ships fitted for sea in

* The Russian fleet in the Black Sea, according to the latest returns, consisted of the *Warsaw*, 130 guns, ten ships of 80, and ten of 60 guns, twelve corvettes, six armed steamers, and about a dozen cutters.

twenty-four hours.... Besides the crews of the ships there are generally from twelve to fifteen thousand troops quartered at Sebastopol, and a numerous train of artillery.

As the winds in the Black Sea generally blow from the north, a fleet from Sebastopol would reach the Thracian Bosphorus in four or five days, and the Russians might occupy Constantinople before intelligence of their preparations for the attempt would reach Europe. The consistency of such an enterprise with the true policy of the court of St. Petersburg, will be elucidated by a further consideration of the state of the Crimea and southern Russia.

We have noticed in a former article the great commercial progress of the Russian ports on the Black Sea (*Athenæum*, No. 456), but the improvements in agriculture are still more remarkable; corn, wine, and oil are now produced abundantly in districts which only a few years ago were barren and desert. A property purchased, for three thousand francs, from the Duke of Richelieu, in 1817, by the Count Woronzow, has risen so much in value, that less than a third of it was sold in 1833 for one hundred thousand francs; and the Count assured Marmont that his entire outlay in buildings and improvements did not exceed twenty thousand francs. But in order that this prosperity should be progressive and permanent, it is necessary that Russia should command the eastern side of the Black Sea and the northern line of communication with the Caspian; otherwise the caravans are exposed to pillage, and the merchant vessels to piracy. Notwithstanding the success in the campaigns of 1834, 5, M. St. Saveur found the city of Anapa, as did Capt. Spencer, completely blockaded.

The Russians may be said to be actually besieged in this fortress; as the water in the wells is brackish, it is necessary to send watering parties to a little river about a mile from the walls. The parties sent out for water, wood, or forage, must be escorted by about a hundred soldiers, and have the protection of a piece of cannon besides, to repel the Circassians who pounce upon all stragglers. Convoys cannot come down the right bank of the Kuban without escorts of twelve hundred or a thousand men, and yet the distance between the fortress to the mouth of the river is not more than thirty miles. On this account the provisions and munitions necessary for the supply of the garrison of Anapa are always sent by sea. Whilst we were in the road of Anapa, we saw several Circassian videttes on the tumuli north of the town, who coolly observed everything that passed in the harbour and the plain, and then disappeared.

A circumstance connected with a well-known English publication, and mentioned by Capt. Spencer, is confirmed by St. Saveur.

Whilst we were at Anapa, the numbers of a journal called the *Portfolio* were brought to Count Woronzow, containing articles on the Circassian war, hostile to Russia. They had been brought into the fortress by some Circassians, who lived on friendly terms with the garrison.

It was said, also, that numerous copies of the *Portfolio* were circulated in all the Caucasian villages by English agents at Trebizon, and that the Circassians were encouraged to persevere in their hostilities by the promise of naval aid from Britain, and by the actual presence of several French and Polish officers. The military narrative, from which we have already quoted, asserts that several Poles deserted to the Circassians, but were sold back to the Russians at a stipulated price; and he believes that European volunteers would be constantly exposed to this danger from the cupidity of the mountaineers. On the other hand, it is notorious that many European engineers are now in Circassia; and M. St. Saveur asserts that they are intrusted with the manufacture and guardianship of the military stores. Anapa is a point of great importance to Russia; it is only about forty miles

from the rising commercial city of Kertch (the ancient Panticapeum), and is the termination of the most convenient caravan route from the Asiatic provinces. It is also one of the angles of that portion of Circassia in the military occupation of the Russians, and yet this important post is exposed to incessant dangers.

Did space permit, we could easily show that the rapid progress of the colonies in the Crimea and the steppes of Tartary must modify, and, perhaps, guide the policy of Russia for many years to come. Protection they require, which renders the Circassian war an object of primary importance; and their continued prosperity is, perhaps, the best security against Russian aggression on Turkey. While the colonists are in a state of transition, the conquest of the countries round the Thracian Bosphorus would certainly induce them to migrate farther towards the south; all the improvements in the Crimea and the Taurida would then be at an end; the capital and enterprise devoted to civilizing Tartary would instantly be directed to the more profitable fields of Rumelia and Anatolia. But such a change would now amount to a complete revolution of property, whose effects would be felt from Archangel to Odessa. To say nothing of the vast imperial domains, whose improved cultivation is daily adding largely to the revenues of the crown, a great and influential body of the Russian nobility, and some of the principal merchants, have speculated extensively in what may be called colonial lands; and they know well that the capture of Constantinople would at once destroy the value of their present property.

The Russian system of colonization, enlightened as it is in many respects, requires much time for its full development, and new acquisitions of territory are felt to be injurious. It was a conviction of this truth, that induced Peter the Great to abandon Gilil and Mazenderan; and it was the same feeling that moderated the territorial demands of the present Emperor at the treaty of Adrianople.

1. *Second Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Irish Fisheries, with the Minutes of Evidence.* Presented to both Houses of Parliament.

2. *Observations upon a Report of the Select Committee on the Salmon Fisheries of Scotland.* By Robert Knox, F.R.S.E. Edinburgh, A. & C. Black.

3. *A Bill for the more effectual preservation of Salmon Fish in Ireland.* Prepared, &c. by Colonel Conolly and Mr. Serjeant Jackson. Ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, Feb. 23, 1838.

The worthy citizen of London, when he sits down to his salmon and lobster sauce, or the humbler artizan who regales on the Newcastle pickled jowl, with its decoration of fennel, troubles his head very little about the natural or commercial history of the esculent in which he delights; and when perchance he reads in the newspapers of Salmon Fishery Committees and Commissions, and of the introduction and dropping of successive bills on the subject, he has no very definite idea that his interests are concerned in the proceedings. Sometimes, however, when the fishmonger's bills come in, and an angry growl is emitted at their inflammation, (as Lord Byron would have called it,) some misgivings must occur as to the insufficiency and uncertainty of the supply; and it is possible that a suspicion of something more tangible and tenable than regtrators and monopolists may rise in the mind to account for the excessive cost of the enjoyment. If such has ever been the case with our readers, they will probably not be displeased to know something of what, at the present moment, is going forward on the subject.

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The salmon is a fish inhabiting both fresh and salt water, leaving the sea at a certain season of the year, and passing as high as it can penetrate up the rivers, for the purpose of depositing its spawn in the shallow gravelly beds of rapid streams; when this process is effected, it returns again to the sea, where alone it acquires and enjoys the plenitude of its health, and its maximum firmness and fitness for the food of man. When the pea or mass of spawn has reached a certain size in the body of the female, the plumpness of the fish degenerates; and when the spawn is shot, the parent is reduced to a spent and feeble condition, in which its flesh is unwholesome and disagreeable to eat. Whether or no there is something in the soft water inimical to the health of the animal, or whether a change in its customary diet may contribute to this deterioration, is not ascertained: but the matter is of little consequence; the principal fact of the animal's condition being universally admitted.

It is obvious from this statement that the dominion of man over the salmon increases in proportion as it is brought into closer contact with his activity, through the diminishing depth and narrowness of the upper waters; while, on the other hand, its multiplication depends on the freedom and safety of its movements in the act of spawning. The spawn, deposited in ridges ploughed in the light gravel by the male parent, continues for some time fixed to the soil; and when the young fry quit the egg, they remain for weeks in the shallow waters, till they have acquired some size; they then, by a marvellous instinct, make for the sea, and their subsequent history escapes notice.[†]

Whatever, then, impedes the passage of the pregnant fish to the spawning grounds, or disrupts them in the act of spawning, or injures the spawning ground, or destroys the fry in its passage to the sea, tends to cut off the supply of succeeding years; and it is in one or other of these ways that the various descriptions of poaching, fraudulent erections for interrupting the fish in their transit through the rivers, mill-dams, the admission of poisonous drugs into the stream, and many other practices, materially injure the productiveness of the fisheries, and cause complaint and outcry. It will not, therefore, appear surprising that the progress of civilization on the banks of salmon rivers should have been accompanied by a marked diminution in the quantity of salmon.

An increasing effort at protection, then, is thought necessary; and the legislature is frequently called upon for fresh enactments, more effectually to protect the fisheries, and to prevent the total loss of a naturally abundant and agreeable article of diet. If this, however, were all, (doubtful and imperfectly known as is the natural history of the fish,) it would not be difficult to frame a code, by which the desired end might be sufficiently secured; but the landed proprietors having a vested right in the fisheries adjoining their estates, their interests have been found not only to be at variance with those of the public, but with each other; and the acknowledged difficulties which have hitherto surrounded every legislative attempt to provide for a satisfactory condition of the fisheries, may all be attributed to these mystifications of rival claimants, and the impossibility of satisfying demands inherently incompatible.

In the first place, the total number of fish passing up a given river being taken at any assignable quantity, every fish captured at or near the mouth of a river must, *pro tanto*, diminish the chances of the upper fisheries. There is thus established a rivalry between the upper and lower

proprietors, in which each party endeavours to impose upon the other restrictions in the exercise of their rights, agreeably with their respective fictions of their own personal advantage. But, however justly these matters might be regulated by law, there must always remain to the lower fisheries an immense advantage; and even in the most fruitful rivers, the rights of the upper fisheries must be comparatively of little value. It happens, however, that it is precisely on that part of the river that the greatest effort is requisite to protect the fish from injury, by a vigilant police against poachers, and by preventing many practices destructive of the spawn and young fry: so that where the greatest vigilance of the proprietor and magistrate is essential, there the fewest motives present themselves to the residents to trouble themselves in the matter. On every river, therefore, possessed by many proprietors, two sets of prejudices prevail, answering to these rival interests. Every upper proprietor thinks he has a right to regulate the fisheries of those below him on the stream, and prevent them from taking more than a certain proportion; while every lower proprietor thinks that he has not only a right to take as many as he can, but also to prohibit the upper proprietors from catching foul fish, or otherwise interfering with the multiplication of the species. From this conflict of interests arises a contest of cunning,—on the one hand to invent better modes of taking the fish, and, on the other, to misrepresent and distort facts relative to the supposed influence of such inventions on the free passage of the breeding fish. In the above statement we have purposely overlooked a third party, whose rights are much questioned, the proprietors of land adjoining the mouths of estuaries, tidal waters, and, generally, of all salmon fisheries which may be described as sea fisheries. Their interests, however, are of a similar nature with those of the lower river proprietors, namely, a maximum of protection for the fish in the upper waters, and an unrestricted right of fishing on their own ground.

The main fact, upon which all legislation on this subject should repose, is the notorious fecundity of the fish. The spawn of a very few pairs of salmon, if suffered to come to maturity, would be amply sufficient for the preservation of the race, and for the abundant stocking of the river; and this result being secured, the greater the number of fish taken, and the smaller the cost of taking, the better for the consumer. It is further to be remarked, that if the fish of any one river belonged to a single proprietor, his interests, and those of the public, would strictly coincide; so that the conduct of his business, like that of most other traders, might be safely trusted to his discretion, on the certainty that he would abstain from all practices injurious to his own property: and as it would be, on other grounds, a matter of indifference to him where he established his fisheries, he would naturally select the spot where the fish are in the primest season, and the most abundantly and easily taken, namely, as near to the sea as possible. In this, his interests and those of the public are strictly identical; and having thus chosen, he might be freely left to entirely obstruct (while carrying on his operations) the course of the fish upwards; it being reasonably certain that he would remove all artificial impediments in good time to obtain a sufficient run of breeding fish to keep up the value of his fisheries. But where there are many rival fisheries, each desirous to catch as many fish as possible, without much consideration as to the quality of the article, and eager also to keep up the price in the market by restraints on the industry of the fishers more favourably circumstanced than themselves, this facility of regulation would be utterly unattainable.

[†] Some interesting experiments on this subject are recorded in *Jameson's Journal for January*.

A multitude of laws are then required to establish what is termed a close time, to render fishing illegal when the fish are out of season; and also to restrain any particular class of proprietors from so using their rights at any time as to commit an outrage on the rights of others: and here it is that difficulties multiply, and mystification begins. Every enactment bearing on these questions should have its basis in some physiological fact in the history of the animal. To fix a time for closing the fisheries during the breeding season, it should be ascertained to a nicety when that season commences and ends; yet plain and obvious to observation as the fact might be thought, it is not yet determined whether the time is the same in all rivers, or whether there are not rivers in which the fish are in season all the year round. This is one of the great points to which the labours of parliamentary committees have been expressly turned; and when the manner in which their examinations are conducted is known, we need not be astonished to find that they have left the issue in a greater state of uncertainty than they found it. A committee being struck, all the parties interested produce witnesses before it, to prove or to disprove whatever they imagine will make the best for their own case; and the result is a mass of conflicting testimony, from which nothing certain can be drawn, without the employment of a sagacity and a logical estimate of the weight of evidence such as belongs to few, even of those who are most versed in judicial proceedings. In looking over the printed proceedings of the salmon inquiries, we find scarcely a fact concerning which the most opposite and conflicting assertions are not made; and it is very rarely that the examinations have been conducted so as to make each question bear upon the last, and elicit the grounds of each opinion, the honesty or the intelligence of the witness, or to lead him to clear up his own involuntary mistakes, or to confute his wilful errors.

After all that has been done in the way of inquiry, it has not been satisfactorily decided whether salmon do, or do not, run up the rivers all the year round; whether in some rivers the number of clean fish to be found, at all seasons of the year, be or be not sufficient to warrant the fisheries being constantly open; whether the variety of salmon called the grilse, be the adolescent fish, or a distinct species, or whether they should, or should not, be caught. As to the influence of certain modes of taking on the abundance of the fish, to the practices injurious to the animal, and to the best means of preventing offences, the obscurity is still greater. On a very few only of the litigated points can we find space for remark, and we shall confine ourselves to the most important.

In the first place, we are inclined to think that the variations in the seasonable times of different rivers, (if such variations there be,) are for the rivers of Great Britain, one of those minima for which the law is not called upon to provide. A fortnight, more or less, at each end of the season, can scarcely affect the money value of a fishery; seeing that the less time a river is fished, the greater must be the abundance of the fish at any given portion of the open time. All greater variations we utterly disbelieve; and, as we do not think it an object that every breeding fish should reach its destination, the close period need not extend throughout the whole breeding season—due care being of course taken to prevent the capture or destruction of the young fish in their descent to the sea; and also to protect, if feasible, the public from the sale of foul and unwholesome fish. We are further of opinion, (even if the grilse really be a salmon,) that it is as unreasonable to prevent

its capture, as it would be to prevent a butcher from killing veal or lamb. Then, as to especial modes of taking the fish, there are some chiefly available in the upper waters, others almost confined to the lower; and the parties respectively interested do all they can to induce the legislature to favour their own method, by restricting the others.

Of these contests, the public is chiefly concerned in the question respecting the stake net. The stake net is an engine erected along the shores of an estuary, which intercepts a space of the current extending between high and low water marks. This is the part of the watercourse much frequented by the salmon, which congregate in the mouths of rivers, to wait the moment for beginning their journey upwards, or to escape the seals which chase them from the open sea. The wide mouth of the engine is placed seaward; and the fish, in their ascent, are conducted by the nets to a narrow opening, which leads into a purse furnished with a valve to prevent regress. When the water is out, the fishermen empty the purse of its contents, and reset it for the next-coming tide. This instrument requires some capital for its construction, and is applicable only to the sea fisheries, or the mouths of tidal rivers; but it is an abundant and a cheap taker, bringing many fish to market that would not otherwise be taken. It has also the great merit of catching the fish when they are in their best condition for the table. It is clear to intuition that if the river belonged to one proprietor, or to a company of proprietors, it would be the interest of the fishermen, as it is of the public, that all the fish should be taken on that spot, and by that engine. It follows, therefore, that any restriction placed on its use, must be enacted in the exclusive interest of the upper proprietors. But if that interest is to preponderate over the public right to a supply of the best and cheapest fish, the boundary of the prohibition is measurable by those established to regulate between the river proprietors themselves. Above the tidal waters, the right of each landlord extends only from his own shore to the middle of the river; and equity further provides, that two proprietors shall not be suffered to combine for the purpose of entirely obstructing the course of the river. Now, the common law right to the fish on the tidal waters is as absolutely in the proprietor, as that of the river proprietor to his fishery; and, as the latter's right is solely bounded by the illegality of a total occupation of the entire breadth of the river, so, by parity of reasoning, should the stake-fisher's. The river and estuary fisherman has clearly a right to extend his moveable net from the shore to mid stream, and to fish it continuously, night and day; the stake net method, however, does less; and it is preferred, simply because it is less expensive. To give a due protection to the upper proprietor, it is sufficient, that the stake net should be prevented in those narrow rivers, where, if two engines were erected opposite to each other, they would totally pre-occupy the watercourse. To extend prohibition beyond this point, is a fraud upon the public, no less than on the restricted proprietor. It is a mere prohibition of cheap fishing; and, amidst the conflicting testimony offered to justify or to repel a further restriction, the truth transpires clearly and distinctly, to whoever will take the pains to weigh the authorities, or to canvas their arguments. It is not, indeed, to be denied, that whatever success the lower fisherman may obtain, by improving his implements of capture, must diminish the run of the river, and, consequently, produce a defalcation in the proceeds of the upper fisheries. But this is the case with all rival establishments in trade; and we might as well prevent any cotton-manufacturer from

adopting an improved steam-engine, as interfere to protect one species of fishing industry from the rivalry of another; with this additional absurdity, that the protection would be afforded, not for the benefit, but to the manifest injury of the public. If due protection were afforded, up the river, to the breeding fish and fry, there would be abundance of salmon for all.

The pretensions of the proprietors of river fisheries combine the avarice of rival traders with the jealousy of game owners; and their reasonings are apparently grounded on the assumption, that salmon being bred in their waters, are their own exclusive property, wherever they may migrate. Accordingly, Col. Conolly, in his bill, wishes to enclose all the salmon in the sea, within one mile of the coast, within the meshes of an act of parliament. Would it not be well to mark all the Colonel's fish, in their descent to the sea, with C. C., standing for Col. Conolly, in order to distinguish them from all other men's fish, and then make it felony to catch them, wherever they were found within the four seas?

With respect to the construction of fixed engines along the course of rivers, the practices to be prevented, or the laws necessary against poachers, the difficulties, though numerous, are all divested of that greatest obstacle to all success—obscurity. What ought to be done, is generally understood; but the means of giving effect to the law, of controlling the peasantry of a wild, thinly-populated district, or contending with the misuses which arise in a populous and civilized part of the world, are not so easily discovered. In many cases, the maintenance of an effective police would be expensive; and the proprietors accordingly claim the protection of government. Why the landlords generally should not, on the same ground, demand from parliament a public game police, it were hard to determine. This much, however, is certain, that if, as Col. Conolly desires, the general police were made subservient to the preservation of the salmon fishery, they would be able to do nothing else. On the whole, then, we are disposed to think, that the legislature should afford encouragement to induce the proprietors of rivers to form corporate or joint-stock fisheries, to coalesce and concentrate all their separate interests in one common fishery, to be carried on as near to the sea as possible. This might be effectually done, by granting such bodies an immunity from all restrictions in the exercise of their right: the same immunity to be granted to all sole proprietors of rivers. Such parties should further be empowered to tax themselves, and raise the means of forming an effective police: any rivers that would not bear this expense, are not worth the trouble of protection. For all rivers that should continue under the old system, one common close season should be appointed. In all, poaching practices should be made penal, and summary powers of conviction should be granted against offenders. But no restrictive law upon engines whatever should be suffered to exist, which had not the public and general advantage for its object. How far, and in what cases, the fishery interests should prevail over the other trading interests, in preventing dams, interfering with the watercourses, suppressing poisonous trades, &c., must be decided by local considerations. It is probable, that in spite of legislation, civilization will occasionally diminish, if not utterly destroy, the salmon in our rivers; at all events, the fishing will generally prove the smaller consideration. The interference with fly fishing, as injurious to the breed, seems utterly futile; as a matter of poaching, we are not called upon to notice it.

Having said thus much, it will be readily imagined, that we have no confidence in the

means proposed for settling disputes among the contending parties, and preserving the fish, which have hitherto been brought before parliament. A greater degree of accuracy in testing statements will be necessary before parliament can legislate according to the nature of the animal, and the true interests of all parties. On this point, the author of the 'Observations' thus expresses himself:—

"A Commission was appointed by the House of Commons in 1825, with power to send for persons, papers, and records. They sat during more than three years, and examined all classes of the community, scientific and otherwise, likely in the smallest degree to afford data for legislation. The landed proprietor, the tacksman, the practical or (as was to be expected) working fisherman, the London salesman, even the amateur naturalist was not forgotten, and if no professed naturalist was brought before that Committee, it cannot, we hope, be ascribed to the cause that no such person exists. The Committee failed altogether in obtaining any correct scientific knowledge of the habits of the fish; but obliged to do something, an act was passed, known usually by the name of Home Drummond's Act, that gentleman having mainly contributed to effect its passage through the House, and to secure the co-operation of at least a majority of the parties. But as the act was merely a *compromise*, ten years had not elapsed when it became once more necessary to re-open, as it were, the whole commission; to appoint another committee with powers similar to those of the former one, but ostensibly more limited as to its inquiries, as may be gathered from the following preamble:—'Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed, to consider the state of the Salmon Fisheries in Scotland, in as far as relates to the altering the close times in different districts in that part of the United Kingdom, the laws for the observance of the Saturday's slip or opening in all cravines, engines, machines, or devices of whatever description used in salmon-fishing,—the construction and regulation of cravines, the regulation of mill-leads or courses, and the removal of dams and obstructions in all rivers, streams, or waters, and to report, &c.' That the Committee did not adhere to their instructions, is not to be wondered at; *the natural history of the salmon had not been ascertained by the former one*. Now, so long as this remains doubtful, just so long is it impracticable to legislate upon any certain principles, whether upon the matter of *close-time* or *proprietorship*, or, indeed, upon any other point whatever, connected with the Fisheries."

Before dismissing this author, we have to state, that, besides the immediate object of his pamphlet, he puts forth a claim to having discovered the peculiar food of the salmon in a microscopic animal, which he has found in the stomachs of these fish. How far he is correct, we have no means of judging, though we are not aware of the salmon possessing any peculiar structure adapted for separating such minute objects from the fluid which they inhabit. No doubt, however, can be entertained, that the food of the salmon, when in the sea, must differ from that which it meets with in sweet water.

The Irish Commissioners, in their Report, have avoided coming to any practical conclusions, in despair of adding to the facts, such as they are, of which parliament is already possessed, without an expense to the public, which they were unwilling to incur. In this, we think they acted judiciously, and with praiseworthy self-denial. They have published, however, a mass of evidence, which may be advantageously consulted by those interested in the subject.

The Life of William Wilberforce. By his Sons. (Second Notice.)

We left Mr. Wilberforce on the threshold of a career consistently and energetically pursued through a long life. From its commencement till his death, he was constantly before the public, the unwearied advocate of what he considered the cause of good order and good morals,—min-

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gling charitably with society, always open to the pleasures of social intercourse, and always on the watch to introduce a higher tone of feeling, a purer motive of action, than is generally sought for by those who live in the whirl of gaiety and ambition. At the same time, it must be confessed, that a careful perusal of these five volumes lead to the conviction, that there was some truth in the assertions of his political enemies, that his zeal was in a degree regulated according to the moral and spiritual temperature of the drawing-rooms in which he taught. There is here and there a passing intrusion of worldliness, evidenced by a somewhat over sensitive anxiety to retain popularity—here and there a disposition to compromise, and to cling to “the powers that be,” of a more accommodating laxity than befits one who takes his lofty stand among men as the regenerator of morals.

From the point reached in our last notice, it would be impossible to proceed with systematic minuteness. His diaries exhibit him as earnest to hold fast by his newly-born opinions and habits, and no less anxious to wear them gracefully. He was happily exempt, it would seem, from those strong passions and prejudices which lead to dogmatism and fanaticism. Even when he was at Bath, (where, for some years, he passed a part of every season,) he despaired not of being useful, by mixing sparingly, but amiably, among the frivolous company of the pump-room and promenade. In the year 1787, he publicly devoted himself to the abolition of slavery. It is impossible, within our limits, to offer even a sketch of the services afterwards rendered by him to that great cause, the accomplishment of which he was permitted the rare reward of witnessing. They are here fully discussed; as are also the several claims to credit of himself, Mr. Clarkson, and their zealous co-operators, Messrs. Stephen and M'caulay—the latter of whom, for his indefatigable industry, has been graphically styled *the hand of the Abolitionists*. We must say, however, generally, that Mr. Wilberforce's biographers have sacrificed too much to their principal figure. Any one who shall read this book fifty years hence, will learn but little as to the *how* and the *where* Mr. Wilberforce became associated with these excellent names, for, in the pages before us, they are assuredly not *personalities*. Even his marriage is passed over so briefly, and with so little appearance of interest, that, on a first and rapid perusal of the work, its date escaped us; and it escaped the Edinburgh reviewer altogether, as appears by a note added to the article.

The diaries of the year 1788 record a visit to the Lakes, and are filled, as indeed is the whole of the work, with laudatory notices of Pitt. Other extraordinary personages are only casually and briefly alluded to; and but a slight mention is made of the munificent part taken by Mr. Wilberforce in the establishment of the Cheddar schools, which were managed with such zeal and energy by *Hannah More*. The solid amount of good effected by them has always appeared to us a valuable set-off against the spiritual flirtations with bishops, and the sectarian bigotry, exhibited in her correspondence, which have made some one-sided liberals deny all merit to that remarkable woman. In the following years, we find notices of him at Buxton—with the *Gisbornes* at Yoxall—making acquaintance with the *Wesleys*, and drawing close the cords of an intimacy with Mr. Henry Thornton, with whom he was afterwards domesticated at Clapham. But there is little to extract, except, perhaps, the following picture of his daily life:—

“ His house was continually open to an influx of men of all conditions. Pitt and his other parliamentary friends might be found there at dinner be-

fore the House.” So constant was their resort, that it was asserted, not a little to his disadvantage in Yorkshire, that he received a pension for entertaining the partisans of the minister. Once every week the ‘Slave Committee’ dined with him. Messrs. Clarkson, Dickson, &c. jocosely named by Mr. Pitt, his ‘white negroes,’ were his constant inmates; and were employed in classing, revising, and abridging evidence under his own eye. “ I cannot invite you here,” he writes to a friend who was about to visit London for advice, ‘ for, during the sitting of Parliament, my house is a mere hotel.’ His breakfast table was thronged by those who came to him on business; or with whom, for any of his many plans of usefulness, he wished to become personally acquainted. He took a lively interest in the Elland Society; and besides subscribing to its funds 100*l.* per annum, (under four anonymous entries to avoid notice,) he invited to his house the young men under education, that he might be able to distribute them in proper situations. No one ever entered more readily into sterling merit, though concealed under a rough exterior. ‘ We have different forms,’ he has said, ‘ assigned to us in the school of life—different gifts imparted. All is not attractive that is good. Iron is useful, though it does not sparkle like the diamond. Gold has not the fragrance of a flower. So different persons have various modes of excellence, and we must have an eye to all.’ Yet no one had a keener or more humorous perception of the shades of character. ‘ Mention, when you write next,’ says the postscript of a letter to Mr. Hey on the announcement of a new candidate for education, ‘ the length of his mane and tail.’ and he would repeat, with a full appreciation of its humour, the answer of his Lincolnshire footman, to an inquiry as to the appearance of a recruit who presented himself in Palace Yard,—‘ What sort of person is he?’ ‘ Oh, sir, he is a rough one.’ The circumstances of his life brought him into contact with the greatest varieties of character. His ante-room was thronged from an early hour; its first occupants being generally invited to his breakfast table; and its later tenants only quitting it when he himself went out on business. Like every other room in his house, it was well stored with books; and the experience of its necessity had led to the exchange of the smaller volumes, with which it was originally furnished, for cumbersome folios, ‘ which could not be carried off by accident in the pocket of a coat.’ Its groups were often most amusing; and provoked the wit of Mrs. H. More to liken it to ‘ Noah's ark, full of beasts clean and unclean.’ On one chair sat a Yorkshire constituent, manufacturing or agricultural; on another a petitioner for charity, or a House of Commons client; on another a Wesleyan preacher: while side by side with an African, a foreign missionary, or a Haytian professor, sat perhaps some man of rank who sought a private interview, and whose name had accidentally escaped announcement. To these mornings succeeded commonly an afternoon of business, and an evening in the House of Commons.”

We may be allowed, also, a passing mention of “ the gallant, good Rion”:—

“ Crowther dined with us, and gave us an account of the shipwreck and Rion's fortitude.” * * A letter of the 17th of April announced to Mr. Wilberforce the shipwreck of the vessel in which Mr. Crowther sailed. ‘ On the 11th of December we left the Cape. On the 21st saw two islands of ice in lat. 42° longitude 38° 30' E. Distant about three leagues. About noon on the 23rd we saw another and bore down towards it, hoisted out the jolly boat and one of the cutters, and picked up some small floating pieces, and then bore away N. W. in order to get entirely clear of the ice. About half-past eight the same evening, the officer on the forecastle cried out, ‘ An island of ice close a-head’ (for being in the dark and a very thick mist we could see very little before us). Before the alarm was sounded through the ship, she had struck one violent blow; and directly after she struck again, and got upon the ice, sliding along into an immense cavern in its side. Every effort was made to save the ship until Friday, when it was judged necessary to quit her. The captain would not leave her, but wrote a letter to the Admiralty. Two boats besides ours were hoisted out. We were taken up by a French ship and came in to the

Cape, after being in the open boat from Dec. 25th to Jan. 3rd, exposed to cold, hunger, and thirst, having scarcely any clothes; two gills of water per day, and at the most two pounds of bread, amongst fifteen.” To this account he added in a conversation, which with its racy Yorkshire dialect Mr. Wilberforce delighted to preserve, ‘ When the ship's condition was altogether hopeless Captain Rion sent for me into the cabin, and asked me, “ Crowther, how do you feel?” “ How? Why I thank God pretty comfortable.” “ I cannot say I do. I had a pious mother, and I have not practised what she taught me; but I must do my duty. The boats will not hold one third of our crew, and if I left the vessel there would be a general rush into them, and every one would perish. I shall stay by the ship, but you shall have a place; and be sure you go in the master's boat, for he knows what he is about, and if any boat reaches the shore it will be his.” In the bustle of embarking I got into the wrong boat, and found out my mistake too late to alter it. The boats however neared each other to make an exchange of some of their provisions, and I heard Rion call to me, “ If you've a heart, Crowther, jump.” I made the attempt, and just reaching the boat fell backwards in the water, but was pulled in amongst them. No other boat than the one into which he was thus taken, ever reached the shore. ‘ John Clarkson alone,’ of those who heard this conversation, says Mr. Wilberforce, ‘ would not despair of Rion.’ ‘ I have seen,’ said Mr. Clarkson, himself a naval man, ‘ such wonderful escapes at sea, that so long as the captain preserves his self-possession I can never despair of any ship.’ ‘ Thursday, 29th,’ says the *Diary*, ‘ waked by a note saying that the *Guardian*, Rion, had arrived safely at the Cape. Poor Crowther could not believe it.’ Captain Rion was preserved for a more distinguished end; his gallant death in the hour of victory at Copenhagen has linked his name with the memory of Nelson.”

From the journal of 1792, we shall extract a few lines concerning one who has as fair a chance of immortality as most moderns:

“ On the road to Bath it occurring to me that it might be useful for me to be early in seeing Sir W. Young, who is just come from the West Indies, and that he was not a quarter of a mile out of the road, I drove to his house, Huntercombe, and staid all night. The visit did not turn out to answer any good purpose. Boswell there, a great enemy of the Abolition—said that he was at Kimber's trial, and gloried in it. Sir William read a letter from G. to his father—some wit, but affected, and full of levity and evil; written in 1773, when he was near sixty, alas! Boszy talked of Johnson, &c. Sat up too late. Sir William very friendly—talked of Slave Trade, and mentioned having found a great number of children without relations on board several ships he visited, who from inquiry appeared to have been kidnapped. Wednesday. Had some serious talk with Boszy, who admitted the depravity of human nature. Last night he expressed his disbelief of eternal punishment. He asked Sir W. to take his boy home, and walked off into the West of England with the ‘Spirit of Athens’ under his arm, and two shirts and a nightcap in his pocket, sans servant.”

The year 1792 was fraught with alarm for the timid amongst us,—who, terrified by the awful spectacles of licence and bloodshed exhibited in France, and, not adverting to differences of position and character, prophetically saw England's sober counsellors and substantial landholders brought to the guillotine in our market-places; while the younger and less thoughtful part of the community danced round the tree of Liberty, and sung the naturalized Carmagnole! Mr. Wilberforce, though too sensible to be one of the extreme alarmists, was not without misgivings; yet he stood up manfully in his place as the advocate of peace, and (the admiring friend of Pitt) endeavoured to reconcile his principles with his feelings, as will be seen by an answer to one of Jasper Wilson's letters, written by Dr. Currie, of Liverpool, in which he defended the minister from the charge brought against him, of willingly adopting a war system!

When the cloud had, for the moment, passed, we find him taking advantage of the renewal of the East India Company's charter to advance the cause of the National Church in India. All this time, be it remembered, he was working zealously on the Abolition question, and attending to his home mission amongst the rich and fashionable—now “declining to play cards at Mrs. A's, but not austere”—now “dining at Mrs. N's, to try to do her good”—and preparing his work on *Practical Christianity*. Early in the year 1794, he gave a yet more convincing proof of his faithfulness to conviction, by moving an amendment to the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament, and voting with the opposition on Mr. Grey's motion for peace. The consequences were, a temporary estrangement from Pitt, whom he loved—openly-expressed triumph on the part of Fox, whose principles, with some exception, he distrusted—and the serious periling of his social influence. “Your Mr. Wilberforce,” said Mr. Windham to Lady Spencer, “will be very happy any morning to hand your Ladyship to the guillotine!”—“and others less violent than Mr. Windham,” continues his biographer, “partook, in a great measure, of the same suspicions.” “When I first went to the levee, after moving my amendment, the king cut me!” This independence should be allowed its full weight, as a counterpoise to the manifestations of worldliness and self-complacency to which, for truth's sake, we thought it right heretofore to allude.

The autumn of the year 1795 saw the Revolutionary crisis in England. There was a public meeting secretly called at York, in opposition to the ministry, for Tuesday the 1st of December—purposely at so short a notice, that the requisitionists might be “safe from any intrusion from the metropolis.”

“When undressing at twelve o'clock on Saturday,” says Mr. Wilberforce, “I received a note from Sir William Milner, saying that the York meeting was to be held upon Tuesday next; but I had given up all idea of going.” He thought it quite impossible that a general meeting could be gathered on so short a summons; and to attend a party council of his enemies would have been manifestly foolish. Yet his suspicions were perhaps aroused by the communication of a friend, who came to tell him that “something extraordinary is certainly designed in Yorkshire, since — was seen to set out on the north road this morning in a chaise and four.” Enough, however, was not known to show that his presence would be useful, still less that it was so far necessary as to justify his travelling upon the day which it was his chiefest privilege to give up to religious employments, until he was in his carriage on his way to church on Sunday morning. Just as he had got into it, an express arrived from Mr. Hey and Mr. Cookson, informing him of all that had been done, and urging him at all costs to be present at the meeting. “I sent immediately to Eliot, and then went there. He and I, on consideration, determined that it would be right for me to go: the country's peace might be much benefited by it.”

“Sending back therefore his carriage to be fitted for the journey, he went himself to the neighbouring church of St. Margaret's... ‘Sir George Shuckburgh there—talking—said sermon...’ and then called on Mr. Pitt. ‘I saw Pitt—he clear—much disquieted.’ Whilst they were still together, his servant brought word that his carriage could not be got ready so soon as was required. ‘Mine,’ said Mr. Pitt, ‘is ready, set off in that.’ ‘If they find out whose carriage you have got,’ said one amongst the group, ‘you will run the risk of being murdered.’ • ‘By half-past two,’ he says, I was off in Pitt's carriage, and travelled to Alconbury Hill, four horses all the way, two outriders preceding him; a provision then essential to a speedy journey, even on the great north road. After a few hours' rest, ‘I was off early on the Monday morning, and got at night to Ferrybridge. Employed myself all the way in preparing for the meeting.’ He had been supplied by Mr.

Pitt with samples of the various works by which the fomenters of sedition were poisoning the public mind; and of such importance was his mission deemed, that an express was sent after him to Ferrybridge with further specimens. ‘Almost the whole of Monday,’ says his secretary, ‘was spent in dictating; and between his own manuscripts and the pamphlets which had followed him, we were almost up to the knees in papers.’ *

“On Monday,” says a private letter of the day, “there went through Halton turnpike above three thousand horsemen. These were principally clothiers, (Billy-men, as they were long called from the event of the next day,) riding on the ponies which carried commonly their cloths to the adjoining markets. Many came from Saddleworth, a distance of near sixty miles, spending a great part of the night upon their journey; and stormy as was the next morning, (Dec. 1.) they still crowded the road from Tadcaster to York. ‘It was an alarming moment,’ says an eye-witness, ‘when these immense numbers began to pour in, while as yet we knew not what part they would take.’ But by Monday evening the supporters of the government began to feel their strength. ‘When we arrived at York,’ says Mr. Atkinson, ‘we were told that our adversaries were collected at the great inn in Lendal, and that our friends were to meet at seven, at the George in Coney Street. Thither we repaired without delay, and found a respectable body of gentlemen already assembled. The enemy, through the friendship of the corporation, had previously secured the Guildhall, where they could lay their plans at leisure. We sent a deputation to offer to meet them the next morning in the Castle Yard, according to their first announcement, where both parties could act freely, but they refused. They then proposed to admit our men and theirs into the Guildhall by forties; but this we declined, knowing that the hustings would be filled with the mere dregs of York, hired to drown with noise what they could not overcome by argument; but we offered to meet them on any fair and open ground they chose. In the morning we assembled at the York Tavern, which was about as near to the Guildhall as the tavern at which they met; and at half past nine we spread our forces even to its gates. They sent out to reconnoitre, and found our strength treble theirs. We were in high spirits, and the enemy were exceedingly disengaged. As soon as the gates of the Guildhall were opened, our men rushed in with theirs; but by entering through the Mansion House they had previously possessed the hustings, and had chaired Sir Thomas Gascoigne. This unfairness stirred up the Leeds' spirit; our men pushed up to the hustings, and lifted several of their number into the midst of their opponents' crowd. These immediately called upon Sir Thomas to quit the chair, and wait till the freeholders had voted in a chairman. He refused to leave it, and they hoisted him out, and voted Mr. Bacon Frank into his place. Our party then proposed and carried by a majority of three to one an adjournment to the Castle Yard, the usual place of meeting, and where numbers had already gathered.’

“At this period of the business, the want of any leader of acknowledged power was deeply felt amongst the supporters of the constitution. The plans of the opposite party had been long matured, and their bands were marshalled under their appointed chiefs; but the friends of order had come suddenly together, and there was none to take the lead in their movements, or engage their general love of order in support of these necessary though obnoxious Bills. Just when this want was most acutely felt, Mr. Wilberforce's carriage turned the corner into Coney Street. His approach was not generally known. ‘You may conceive our sensations,’ says a Leeds gentleman, ‘when he dashed by our party in his chariot and four a little before we reached York.’ He was received with the same exultation by the assembled concourse. ‘He arrived,’ says Mr. Atkinson, ‘at about a quarter to two, amidst the acclamations of thousands. The city resounded with shouts, and hats filled the air. ‘What a row,’ he said to his son, when quietly entering the city thirty-two years later by the same road, ‘what a row did I make when I turned this corner in 1795; it seemed as if the whole place must come down together.’”

This scene of other days, whose very spirit seems to have passed away, cannot but have its

interest. So far from endangering his popularity, and losing his seat at the approaching election, by the part he took, Mr. Wilberforce “returned beyond all expectation, at the very highest wave of popular applause.” The use he made of his triumph is characteristic:

“Upon the 15th of December, he gave notice that early in the following session he would propose his motion, reminding the House at the same time that the first day of the approaching year had been the period named in 1792 for the termination of the (slave) trade. ‘And now,’ he added, ‘when we are checking the progress of licentiousness, now is the very time to show our true principles, by stopping a practice which violates all the real rights of human nature.’”

The bill afterwards brought in was lost—“ten or twelve of those who had supported me absent in the country, or on pleasure.” “Enough at the Opera,” he continues, “to have carried it.”

Succeeding parliamentary sessions bore fresh witness to his constancy and patience; his recesses were spent, as before, in the country, at the houses of friends, or at Buxton, where he heard Miss Seward—that princess of clever *précieuses*—read and repeat *Cornaro*. A notice of another distinguished character occurs in a subsequent page:

“On his road from Buxton, he had been amused by a characteristic letter, in which Jeremy Bentham urged him to volunteer his services as chief negotiator, offering his own assistance in quality of secretary. He was at this time as intimate with Mr. Bentham as the disagreement of their tastes rendered possible. ‘Bentham,’ he says, ‘(inter alia,) professes to have no like for poetry.’ • • •

“This intimacy had grown out of his attempts to assist Mr. Bentham when the failure of his ‘panopticon’ had involved him in pecuniary losses. The plan of this penitentiary greatly pleased Mr. Dundas, and he obtained Mr. Pitt's sanction for the experiment. Thus encouraged, Mr. Bentham had entered into contracts for the erection of the building, when Lord Spencer complained loudly and successfully of its vicinity to his estate. It proved no easy matter to find another site, whilst the delay involved Mr. Bentham in serious responsibilities.” * * * “Never was any one worse used than Bentham. I have seen the tears run down the cheeks of that strong-minded man through vexation at the pressing importunity of creditors and the insolence of official underlings, when day after day he was begging at the Treasury for what was indeed a mere matter of right. How indignant did I often feel, when I saw him thus treated by men infinitely his inferiors! I could have extinguished them. He was quite soured by it, and I have no doubt that many of his hasty opinions afterwards were the fruit of this ill treatment.” ‘A fit site,’ at last wrote the weary man, “obtainable for my purpose, without a single dissentient voice, is that of the golden tree, and the singing water, and after a three years' consideration I beg to be excused searching for it.”—‘Bentham's hard measure’—Bentham cruelly used—Jeremy Bentham, suo moto—are Mr. Wilberforce's docketings upon the letters which at this time passed frequently between them. Some of them are not a little singular.—‘Kind sir,’ he writes in one, ‘the next time you happen on Mr. Attorney-General in the House or elsewhere, be pleased to take a spike, the longer and sharper the better, and apply it to him by way of memento that the Penitentiary-Contract Bill has, for I know not what length of time, been sticking in his hands; and you will much oblige,

your humble servant to command,

JEREMY BENTHAM.

“N.B. A corking pin was yesterday applied by Mr. Abbot.”

We pass over Dundas's ridicule on Mr. Wilberforce's amendment in favour of Lafayette, which he called a scheme “to catch the straggling humanity of the house”—the events of the following spring (1797), when the Bank stopped payment—the publication of his *Practical Christianity*, which took place in April, and its favourable reception—and his last in-

terview with Portsmouth, and made a speech which came out in the *Times*—the *thropic* being exceeded by that done in amounting not limited. In short, of benevolence to secure parate even Wilberforce shortly after himself porting *Ne* sion of b “because but I would next discov More, that of obtaining turers in the volume, o notice. V but, shou tent with benevolence to insure old age—of the bi

The Atheneum

In our regular plays, we find the characters no need of at least, until called for principles, &c. however, which the present w more dramatic. The Atheneum form better action, more description strong in than the apt to be fatter our suggestion the author our raw. Without nature, there to make there is originality gentleness. Hyllus, our auth rides his charm to macter fu

And with As is the That second. By the fl As one w Yet one w Can pierce Upset, &c. As from Breaks or And in a Of blacks Kinde

physiognomy was as grave, short of actual sadness, as human face could assume, reminding you of those set, solid, composed, very decorous visages, that indifferent persons put on for the day at a funeral: her very complexion was uniformly colourless—pale, yet not clear—that *slack-baked* look which forbids the idea of levity. When she smiled, which was rarely, and in cases where most females of her years would have indulged in a titter, or excusable laugh, it was the faintest possible approach to hilarity—the corners of her mouth curving, if anything, a little downwards. Nothing, in fact, less than galvanism, which ‘sets corpses a-grimacing,’ seemed likely to shock her features into any broad demonstration of jocularity, and yet, lo! there she was, her face shortened by half its length—her mouth stretching from ear to ear, and hardly able, for a suppressed giggle, to articulate its brief announcement—



“Please, Sir, here’s Mr. Grimaldi.”

“I have always considered the above physiognomical miracle—the lighting up of that seemingly impractical countenance—as the best criticism I have ever seen of the performances of the great Pan of Pantomime:—a most eloquent retrospective review of the triumphs of his genius. It was a glorious illustration of the Pleasures of Memory to behold that face so like the sea in a dead calm on a dull day burst suddenly into ripples and radiance, like the brook that laughs in the sun. What recollections of exquisite fooling must have rushed into her fancy to convert that Quakerly maiden, as by astage metamorphosis, into a perfect figure of fun! What grotesque fantastic shapes must have come tumbling, rolling, crawling, dangling, dancing, prancing, floundering, flopping, striding, sliding, ambling, shambling, scrambling, stumbling, bumbling, and trundling into her mind’s eye to startle her features from their propriety! *

“For my own part I confess to have been somewhat unsettled as well as the bewildered maid by pantomimical associations. Slowly and seriously as my visitor advanced, and with a decided stoop, I could not forget that I had seen the same personage come in with two odd eyebrows, a pair of right-and-left eyes, a wry nose, a crooked mouth, two wrong arms, two left legs, and a free and easy body without a bone in it, or apparently any centre of gravity. I was half prepared to hear that rare voice break forth smart as the smack of a waggoner’s whip, or richly thick and chuckling, like the utterance of a boy laughing, talking, and eating custard, all at once; but a short interval sufficed to dispel the pleasant illusion, and convinced me that the Grimaldi was a total wreck.

“Alas! how changed from him,
The life of humour, and the soul of whim.”

The lustre of his bright eye was gone—his eloquent face was passive and looked thrown out of work—and his frame was bowed down by no feigned decrepitude. His melancholy errand related to a Farewell Address,

which at the invitation of his staunch friend Miss Kelly—for it did not require a request—I had undertaken to indite. He pleaded earnestly that it might be brief, being, he said, ‘a bad study,’ as well as distrustful of his bodily strength. Of his sufferings he spoke with a sad but resigned tone, expressed deep regret at quitting a profession he delighted in, and partly attributed the sudden breaking down of his health to the superior size of one particular stage which required of him a jump extra in getting off. That additional bound, like the buttock at the end of a Scotch mile, had, he thought, over-tasked his strength. His whole deportment and conversation impressed me with the opinion that he was a simple, sensible, warm-hearted being, such indeed as he appears in his Memoirs—a Joseph after Parson Adams’s own heart. We shook hands heartily, parted, and I never saw him again.”

We must also find room for Mr. Payne Pilgrim’s fears as to the consequences of the late Elland Meeting, where the women assembled to petition Parliament:—

“I am only a plain family man in the farming line, but to my misfortune, as turns out, I am locally situated in the county of York, and what’s worse, a great deal too high Elland. I’m not a political character myself, and as such have nothing to object for or against public meetings and speechifyings so long as it’s confined to the male kind, but with as good nerves as most men that can ride to hounds, nothing since incendiaryism has given them such a shock as the breaking out of female elocution, for in course like the rick burnings and the influenzey or any other new kick, it will go through the whole country. My own house has caughted for one, and I will inform you the symptoms it begins with. The Elland Meeting, you see, was on a Tuesday, and between you and me and the post, it’s my belief that my mistress was present, though she do say it were a visit to her mother. Otherwise I cannot think what could put her teeth into her head on the Wednesday for the first time, by which I mean to say her spelling for a new set, if it was not to assist her parts of speech. Agricultural distress has made gold much more scarce among farmers than formerly, and I don’t mind saying it’s more than I could afford comfortably at most times to lay out twenty guineas in ivory for the sake of a correct pronouncing. However I made no remark, except to myself, namely, that they wasn’t wanted to keep her tongue between. For my own part I have always found she could speak plain enough, and particularly when I couldn’t—by reason of dining at the ordinary on market days, and the like. Any way she always contrived to speak her mind, but ever since the meeting she seems to have had more mind to speak; for instance, a long confabbing with every beggar at the gate, instead of sending them off as formerly with nothing but a flea in their ear, as the saying is. In short, many more things struck me as suspicious, and amongst the rest, her making an errand again to Elland for a piece of stuff and a little fustian—in pint of fact, that visit seemed to set her more agog than before, so as to start a new notion of going up to London about Betsy’s impediment, and says she, I can kill two birds, and get my new teeth at the same time. If that don’t look oratorical, thinks I to myself, then I don’t know what does. However, last Sunday was a week lets the whole eat out of the bag, as the saying is, as near as may be as follows. It was just after dinner, and only our two selves quite domestically, Betsy being gone to grandmother’s, and me going to take my first glass of wine, and so as usual, I nodded to my good woman, with a ‘Here’s to ye, Kate!’ according to custom—when lo! and behold, up jumps Madam regularly on her legs, opening like a hound that has just hit the scent, and begins a return thanks, and delivery of sentiments and so forth, before I knew where I was. Where she got the knack of it without practice, Lord knows, for it’s more than ever I was competent to, as for instance, when I’ve been publicly drunk at our Coursing Club, and the like. However she was five good minutes long before she broke down, or recollect her self, I don’t know which, and I’m free to say, left me dumbfounded in a mizmaze that I hadn’t presence of mind to argue the point. However, before going to bed, I thought best to open gently on the subject,

but as might be expected, the more we differed, the more we debated, which in course was just what Madam wanted, till at long and at last, seeing that I was only practised upon, like Betsy’s piano, I thought proper to adjourn myself off to roost.

“And now, honoured Sir, what is to be done to stop such a national calamity as hangs over us like a thundercloud? We have a saying here in the north about a crowing hen, that seems quite put to the case. And if you keep live stock, what can cut a foolisher figure than a great gawksome hen, leaving her eggs to addle in the nest, or her chicks, if so be, to the care of the kite, to go a spurring and sparring about the yard with her hackle up, and trying to crow like a cock of the walk? So it is with the mistress of a house leaving her helpless babes, or what is worse, her grown-up girls, to their own care and looking after, to go ranting and itinerating all over the country, henpecking at the heads of the nation, and cackling upon tables, or in waggon, or on the hustings. It’s my opinion nature intended the whole sex to be more backward in coming forward, let alone tattle at tea-drinkings, or gossiping at christenings, or lying-in, but to be totally unaccustomed to public speaking. As to state affairs, some do think there’s more talking than doing already, and in course it will be no cure for it, to match the House of Lords with a House of Ladies. In the mean time, I don’t mean to come down the money for the new teeth or the impediment.”

Now a word or two on the Black and White Question, and whether the West Indian Apprentices ought or ought not to be considered out of their time. We have first a sketch of the history and mystery of apprenticeship in England, together with Master Ruggles’ Report on the subject. His mother, it appears, had answered an advertisement for an articled pupil, and he is now “on liking.” If there be any truth in the following sketch, they manage these things differently in the West Indies.



Apprentice on Liking.

Master Ruggles’ Report leads to inquiries as to the state of the Negro apprentices; and in the progress of this search after truth we have the cross-examination of a good-humoured African, lately arrived from Jamaica:—

“To my first question, whether he had ever betrayed any original inclination to go into the rice, sugar, and tobacco line, he gave a decided negative. He had no occasion, he said, to labour for a livelihood, having been in his own country an independent black prince, and heir-apparent, as I understood him, to the king of the Ebos. He acknowledged, however, that he could neither read nor write, and consequently had never applied personally, or by letter, post paid, to any transatlantic A. B. C. or X. Y. Z., in answer to an advertisement for an ‘Articled Pupil.’ He was taken, he affirmed, at

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required with him. It appeared, however, that he had been regularly bound, but on explanation it turned out that it had been done with rope-yarn, and the only indentures he knew of, were on his wrists and ankles, from the pressure of his fetters. He had a decided impression that his parents or guardians were never applied to for their concurrence; indeed he had no recollection of being asked for his own assent to the arrangement. In short, his very first step appeared to have been into slavery, and it was only after a long term of severe service in the rice-field and the cane-piece that he was constituted an apprentice. This being the point to which the public interest is mainly directed, my inquiries here became naturally more minute, and the evidence was proportionably circumstantial. Taking the Ruggles letters for my guide, I was at great pains to make out something analogous to the state of being what is called 'upon liking,' but I failed to elicit anything of the sort; and from the solemnity, not to say awfulness, of Sambo's assertions, there appeared no reason to suspect his veracity. He denied most positively and repeatedly his dining, in any one solitary instance, with his master and mistress, and by consequence the pleasure of taking wine with them after the social repast. He was equally firm in disclaiming any invitation to sit up to supper; and instead of being asked if he liked music, he declared indignantly that his favourite instruments the kitty-katty and the gamby had been continually broken over his own head. He totally repudiated the notion of playing at Pope Joan with the company that came to his master's house; and insisted that the only notice he ever obtained from the visitors was his being 'larruped' by every gentleman that got drunk, and none of them ever went away sober. On the whole he would not allow himself to have received any personal benefit from his metamorphosis by Act of Parliament into an apprentice; no, not even to the extent of sparing him one single cut of the cowhide. He rather thought, on the contrary, that the prospect of his being out of his time in so many years had operated to the prejudice of the negro, by tempting the owner in the interim to get as much out of him, and pitch as much into him, as possible. To conclude, I charged Sambo very home with a question which has been very much dwelt upon by certain members of both Houses; namely, whether the blacks were 'properly prepared' to enter into a state of liberty? to which he answered very candidly, that he had not formally examined them on the subject, but judging by himself he should say they were quite as fit and prepared for freedom as they had been for slavery, to which they had mostly been introduced at an unfashionably short notice. For his own part he had been rather suddenly emancipated by simply stepping on English ground; but the only effect had been to inspire him with profound feelings of veneration and gratitude towards the soil, and a most fervent wish that he could send over a barrowfull of the same earth for Black Juno and de pickaninneys to put him foot upon in Jamakey."

There are numberless other excellent papers, but we have selected these as having reference to subjects of immediate interest.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Age of the Earth considered geologically and historically, by W. Rhind.—"The earth has bubbles as the water bath, and these are of them." To those who are prepared to receive with complacency conjecture piled upon conjecture, and to accept of any amount of inconclusive argument in the place of one good observation, theories of the earth will ever be acceptable; and they who find pleasure in the morbid excitement of their imagination, will not readily be talked out of their liking, and if beaten from one scientific romance, will incontinently set about constructing another. The very remarkable discoveries which modern geology has opened to contemplation, have given a renewed turn in this direction to the public intellect; and just at the time when the reveries of the older cosmogony weavers were sinking into discredit and oblivion, the subject has suddenly put forth fresh claims on the attention of the philosopher, and re-assumed its fashionable importance. Our readers are well aware that the geological facts

brought to light in our days, have been thought to indicate the necessary lapse of immense periods of time for their development, and that various statements are abroad founded on these facts, carrying the antiquity of the world to ages long antecedent to the creation of man. To those who view the opening chapters of the book of Genesis, as an historical and literal detail of the physical fact of creation necessarily connected with the christian dispensation, such statements must be regarded with unusual jealousy, as being in their apprehension, at war with divine revelation; and numerous modes of meeting them have been put forth, both by divines and lay philosophers. Some of these reasoners have denied the facts; others the inference; and others, again, have by their interpretations of the Mosaic text, endeavoured to accommodate it to their notions of the evidences of geology. Mr. Rhind is among those who stick to the literal interpretation of the text. "If," he says, "the Mosaic account of the creation be not strictly and exclusively a statement of physical facts, it is nothing;" and under the influence of this conviction he has composed his volume. It is not for us to call in question the position, or to give an opinion on the discretion which thus puts religion to stand or fall upon a point on which the best authorities have widely differed; but in reference to the philosophical part of the argument, we may express our agreement in the author's main proposition, that geological science is not in a state sufficiently advanced for duly conducting such discussions. It is manifest, that in order to gather surmises concerning the time actually employed in developing the by-gone phenomena indicated by the present condition of things, we ought to be enabled accurately to estimate all the concomitants of each event. All reasonings on this subject deduced from the existing state of the earth's surface must, from the increasing uncertainty respecting concomitants, lose something of their weight and cogency, as they refer to epochs of greater antiquity; and we have a strong suspicion that, however well we may come to understand the order and succession by which the existing strata were formed, we are not likely to arrive at more than the loosest conjectures as to the world's absolute duration. Agreeing then, as we do, with Mr. Rhind as to the inadequacy of science to put this question of time at rest, we are further of opinion that he is no more successful in establishing his negative, than others have been in demonstrating the opposite positive; and we conclude therefore as we began: "the earth has bubbles as the water bath, and these are of them."

Essays on Natural History, by Charles Waterton, Esq.—These Essays are by the well-known author of 'The Wanderings,' and appeared originally in the Magazine of Natural History. They are pleasant, and full of personal observation, relating principally to ornithology. Not the least interesting part of the volume is an autobiographical sketch prefixed. The historical account of the family of Waterton is written in a style sufficiently original to amuse our readers:—"In remote times, some of my ancestors were sufficiently notorious to have had their names handed down to posterity. They fought at Cressy, and at Agincourt, and at Marston Moor. Sir Robert Waterton was Governor of Pontefract Castle, and had charge of King Richard II. Sir Hugh Waterton was executor to his Sovereign's will, and guardian to his daughters. Another ancestor was sent into France by the king, with orders to contract a royal marriage. He was allowed thirteen shillings a day for his trouble and travelling expenses. Another was Lord Chancellor of England, and preferred to lose his head rather than sacrifice his conscience. Another was master of the horse, and was deprived both of his commission and his estate, on the same account as the former. His descendants seemed determined to perpetuate their claim to the soil; for they sent a bailiff once in every seven years to dig up a sod on the territory. I was the first to discontinue this septennial act, seeing law and length of time against us. Up to the reign of Henry VIII., things had gone on swimmingly for the Watertons; and it does not appear that any of them had ever been in disgrace."

— "Neque in his quisquam damnatus et exsul." But, during the sway of that ferocious brute, there was a sad reverse of fortune:—

"Ex illo fluere, ac retro sublapsa referri,
Spes Danaum."

"From thence the tide of fortune left their shore,
And ebb'd much faster than it flow'd before."

The cause of our disasters was briefly this:—The king fell scandalously in love with a buxom lass, and he wished to make her his lawful wife, notwithstandinging that his most virtuous queen was still alive. Having applied to the head of the Church for a divorce, his request was not complied with; although Martin Luther, the apostate friar and creed-reformer, had allowed the Margrave of Hesse to have two wives at one and the same time. Upon this refusal our royal goat became exceedingly mischievous: "Audax omnia perpeti ruit per vetitum nefas." Having caused himself to be made head of the church, he suppressed all the monasteries, and squandered their revenues amongst gamblers, bartenders, mountebanks, and apostates. The poor, by his villainies, were reduced to great misery, and they took to evil ways in order to keep body and soul together. During this merciless reign, seventy-two thousand of them were hanged for thieving. In good Queen Mary's days there was a short tide of flood in our favour; and Thomas Waterton of Walton Hall was High Sheriff of York. This was the last public commission held by our family. The succeeding reign brought every species of reproach and indignity upon us. We were declared totally incapable of serving our country; we were held up to the scorn of a deluded multitude, as a damnable idolaters; and we were unceremoniously ousted out of our tenements: our only crime being a conscientious adherence to the creed of our ancestors, professed by England for nine long centuries before the Reformation. So determined were the religionists that we should grope our way to heaven along the crooked and gloomy path they had laid out for us, that they made us pay twenty pounds a month, by way of penalty, for refusing to hear a married parson read prayers in the church of Sandal Magna; which venerable edifice had been stripped of its altar, its crucifix, its chalice, its tabernacle, and all its holy ornaments, not for the love of God, but for the private use and benefit of those who laid their sacrilegious hands upon them. My ancestors acted wisely.—Oliver Cromwell broke down our drawbridge; some of his musket balls remaining in one of the old oaken gates, which are in good repair to this day. Not being able to get in, he carried off everything in the shape of horses and cattle that his men could lay their hands on. Dutch William enacted doubly severe penal laws against us: during the reign of that sordid foreigner, some little relaxation was at last made in favour of dissenters; but it was particularly specified, that nothing contained in the act should be construed 'to give ease to any papist or popish recusant.' My grandfather had the honour of being sent prisoner to York, a short time before the battle of Culloden, on account of his well-known attachment to the hereditary rights of kings, in the person of poor Charley Stuart, who was declared a pretender!—My own father paid double taxes for some years after he came to the estate. Times are better for us now: but I, individually, am not much better for the change; for I will never take Sir Robert Peel's oath. In framing that abominable oath, I don't believe that Sir Robert cared one fig's end whether the soul of a Catholic went up, after death, to the King of Brightness, or descended to the king of brimstone: his only aim seems to have been to secure to the church by law established, the full possession of the loaves and fishes. But, as I have a vehement inclination to make a grab at those loaves and fishes, in order to distribute a large proportion of them to the poor of Great Britain, who have an undoubted claim to it, I do not intend to have my hands tied behind me: hence my positive refusal to swallow Sir Robert Peel's oath."

Nourmahal, by M. J. Quin, Esq., is an Oriental romance, supposed to be related by one of the itinerant story-tellers who make the coffee-houses of the East merry or sad with their recitals. But the real untutored reciter of marvels and adventures would have started off with his "Once upon a time"—or "In the glorious reign of Haroun Alraschid"—instead of opening his narrative with an enumeration of the wonders of nature "beyond the grand chain of the Himalas." In fact, the traveller instructing his friends at home, and not the artist hurried on by the interest of the reality or fiction he is repeating, is present throughout the whole of

'Nourmahal.' It contains, also, too many traces of Oriental study to permit us to surrender ourselves to the spell of the artist. Many, however, may find good amusement in 'Nourmahal,' seeing that it is fruitful in escapes—supernatural marvels—and vicissitudes of fortune,—and ends, as it were, in the midst of such displays of "barbaric pearl and gold" as MM. Leon and Feuchères themselves, (the *property-artists* of the Grand Opera at Paris,) could not approach in their most elaborate simulations.

The M.P.'s Wife, and the Lady Geraldine, 2 vols.—In spite of a clap-trap title to the first (not principal) story, and preliminary advertisements conformable, these two tales deserve a good place among works of their kind. The theme of 'The M.P.'s Wife' is the ambition of a beautiful and affectionate woman, in the first instance originating as much in devotion to her gifted but inert husband, as in her own high desires, and quickened by rivalry with an old playmate of girlhood. The workings of this disposition, and its consequences, are cleverly sketched; but the second story is the better. In it is displayed the career, brilliant in its outset, fearful in its close, of a coquette, such as we fain would hope is peculiar to fiction. The antagonist character to Lady Geraldine—Isabel—is as patient, and charming, and lovable a woman as has been often pourtrayed: and the author has, with happy art, crossed the threads of the two destinies so frequently and inextricably as to excite a strong interest. This tale contains not only glimpses of a power over character, but also over the arrangement of striking and pathetic scenes; and, if a first work, is full of excellent promise.

Topsail-Sheet Blocks; or the Naval Foundling, by the Old Sailor.—Novels are becoming a little too "ship-shape," in the present nautical rage for writing; and the English language begins to roll about, as though it had "its grog aboard." The Blue-Jacket authors dismiss from their minds all delicate regard for "taffeta phrases, silken terms precise," and *rough* it with images, oaths, and great sea-words, coarse as their every-day experience offers to them. It is no longer requisite that a writer for the public should have been at school or at college;—the question is, how long has he been in her Majesty's Navy?—and how can he "spin a yarn"? 'Topsail-Sheet Blocks' is just the book that befits the title; it is full of what Mrs. Frail calls "sea-jargon." It almost smells of pitch! Should any of our readers embark in this novel, they may be a little sea-sick before they get well through the voyage.

The Man without Soul, by F. Harrison Rankin, Esq.—'The Man without Soul' is a Tartuffe, more philosophical in his opinions and yet more abominable in his practices than the much canvassed 'Vicar of Wrexhill' himself: a personage belonging to that inferior school of novels, in which contrast—a Chinese sort of painting in black and white—is the one thing needful; and valued in proportion as its shades and lights are extravagant and sharply defined. The tale of Molyneux's sinuous career, however, is cleverly unfolded: Mr. Rankin possessing sufficient skill in dialogue and description, to justify his attempting a subject more welcome and life-like. From our praise of the story, due to its successful management, we must except its catastrophe, which is clumsy, and needlessly terrible.

Mortimer Delmar, and Highfield Tower, by the author of 'Conrad Blessington.'—*Piers de Gaveston*, by E. E. C.—Sir James Mackintosh, and our most tolerant friend, the late lamented 'Elia' also, was wont to deny the existence of such a thing as a bad novel. Had either of the twain, however, we humbly submit, ever edited the *Athenæum*, the fullness of one single year's experience must have made him change his charitable judgment. For instance,—to take the books under notice; though we have encountered novels more *fade*, and romances even less coloured, than the novel and romance in question, it would be difficult for the most determined finder of "good in every thing" to discover in either one new incident, one fresh thought, one character in whose composition there was the slightest original ingredient, or whose adventures offered the remotest cause for surprise. 'Mortimer Delmar' turns upon those ill-assorted marriages, which fill the world with unhappiness and the newspapers with scandal.—Its heroine endures and forgives much: even the infidelity of a husband, which is pushed to the point of his pretend-

ing marriage with another woman, and deceiving the latter into a belief that she is his lawful wife. It is easily written, with a gentle pathos in some of its scenes, and contains a persevering coquette, Mary Beaumont, who, in spite of her perseverance in coquetry, is our favourite among the ladies. 'Piers de Gaveston' is an historical tale, which has somehow or other escaped from the fostering care of him of the Minerva Press, to Paternoster Row.

Peter King, by Mars, author of *Blaise l'Eveille*, &c.; with an introduction by F. Chatelain, 2 vols. [Peter King, &c.]—'Peter King' consists of a series of independent scenes, or, as they are called by the French themselves, *tableaux*, having little or no natural connexion, but strung together upon a slight thread of fantastic and somewhat improbable narrative. Its principal claim on attention lies in its being an attempt to give the Parisians an idea of the English, as they appear in their own country. Had an Englishman possessed a similar mass of materials relating to any continental community, he would have produced it in the form of isolated sketches in some magazine (for there is not enough to spin "a tour," or a "six weeks' residence"); but the mode in Paris requires that such stray trifles should be worked up into novels. 'Peter King' is a farcical extravaganza, made up of newspaper anecdotes, and Joe-Millers, thrown into action, and, so to speak, dramatized. As a portraiture of English manners, in which alone we should have anything to say to it, we must protest against its being palmed on our neighbours.

The greater part of the scenes, says M. Chatelain on his own responsibility, "as one who has inhabited London," are founded on fact—*"some of them are strange enough to be sure [so strange that they might as well have been laid in Timbuctoo, as in London], but they are mostly based on anecdotes of eccentrics still living, or who have existed in England."* In this respect, the author had no difficulty but in the selection; for is there a nation on earth, in which there can be found so many individuals remarkable for their eccentricities, of men whose ideas are more at odds with those of the rest of mankind?" Mons. Chatelain has not lived so long in England as to have forgotten that there is such a character in Paris as a *farceur*; but he has, we should have thought, inhabited London long enough to have learned, that the class of anecdotes which he vouches for as fact, owe a large part of their whim and extravagance to the fruitful invention of our penny-a-liners, who are called upon, in default of news, to extemporize a wonder. Excepting

tolerable account of the villainies practised at an English election, there is little really English in the facts or colouring of Peter King; and as for substituting English "Peter" for French "Pierre," and talking of "watchmen" and "public houses," or "west end," (without the article and as a specific *local*) ten days' residence in England might have answered as well as ten years. Frenchmen seem incapable of understanding us and our manners; and we much doubt whether M. Mars had any serious intention of attempting it. The compounding Addison's Ugly Club with the London "Eccentrics," (or what is meant for them) and placing them in "cannie Edinburgh," is apparently a broad hoax upon brother Andrew. But where did the author learn that among the English boxers, the drawing of

"the first claret" closes the contest? or who told him that the Scotch Burkers carried on their murders in the country, by the remote way-side, and not in the most populous parts of the great city?

Hill and Valley, or Hours in England and Wales, by Catherine Sinclair.—We like this tour less than certain moral tales which we have recently seen from the same pen. Miss Sinclair, who in her former essays appeared shrewd and sensible, is here haunted with the desire of gay writing, and beguiling the way, after the fashion of eastern travellers, by recounting smart anecdotes and pretty sayings; hence, many a description which would otherwise have been natural and pleasing, wears the air of being written by the lady's *soubrette*, rather than the lady herself. This exception made, (and it is largely called for) the volume under notice may be thought amusing as a travelling companion.

Heinroth on Education.—The design of this work is to show that the proper business of education is to inculcate habits of self-formation. The author is

one who has well considered the subject as a part both of mental and moral science, and his work is peculiarly suited to parents who undertake the instruction of their own children.

Falconer's Selections from Sadi.—This is a valuable work for Persian students; it is not only a good text-book, but it greatly facilitates the reading of manuscripts written in the Talik hand, which has so often proved a painful step to those who were acquainted only with the ordinary Persian type in printed books. The text is purer than that of the Calcutta edition of Sadi, and the imitation of manuscript by lithography renders the work more practically useful than the printed text-books which are usually placed in the hands of learners.

The Life of Nicholas Lewis, Count Zinzendorf, &c., by the Rev. August Gottlieb Spangenberg; translated from the German, by Samuel Jackson, &c. &c., with an introductory *Preface*, by the Rev. P. Latrobe.—*A Memoir of Mrs. Harriet W. Winslow, &c. &c.*, by Miron Winslow, with an *Introductory Essay*, by J. Harrington Evans.—The first of these biographies is an interesting contribution to the history of religious sects, and for this very reason can claim but a few passing words of recommendation from us. In a well-written preface, Mr. Latrobe defends Count Zinzendorf from the charges of fanaticism so often brought against him, and points to the energy, and benevolence, and self-denial, of which the subsequent biography offers proof. In the second and less valuable volume, which we have associated with it, those interested in the progress of missionary labour will find the life of a pious and devoted woman, written with simplicity and feeling by her husband, an American, and, like herself, engaged heart and soul in the Ceylon Mission.

Elements of Geology and Physical Geography, by William Rhind.—Mr. Rhind deserves the thanks of the class of students for whose use this treatise is intended, as the facts are arranged in a concise and systematic form; and condensed from the works of our best writers. The author, following McCulloch, first treats of Mineral Substances and Rocks which compose the earth's surface; a short account is then given of Animal and Vegetable Remains, with a few wood-cuts, among which are introduced the Ornithichnites of North America, and the Sivatherium of the Himalaya; but Mr. Rhind may be assured, that these mountains contain no hairy elephants within their recesses or at their bases. The Changes now taking place, Volcanoes, Temperature, and Physical Geography, are then treated of; and the author, by the use of a small type, has been able to condense much useful matter. His work may be safely recommended to the friends of that comprehensive system of education now generally pursued.

List of New Books.—A Treatise on Engineering, Field Work, &c., by P. Bruff, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*De Fiva's New Grammar of French*, 2 vols. 12mo. 2s. bd.—*Memoir of the late Rev. John Jones*, by T. Evans, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—*Paul Pry's Oddities of London Life*, 2 vols. post 8vo. 2s. cl.—*Girdlestone's Commentary on the Old Testament*, Part III., 8vo. 9s. cl.—*Smith's Sermons at the Temple and at Cambridge*, 8vo. 12s. bds.—*The Holy Sanctuary, or Domestic Devotions for every Day in the Year*, 8vo. 15s. cl.—*Conder's Analytical and Comparative View of all Religions*, 8vo. 14s. cl.—*Moberly's Practical Sermons*, 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—*Christian's Family Library*, Vol. XXVIII., *Roberts's Life of More*, 6s. cl.—*Montrose and the Covenanters*, by M. Napier, 2 vols. 8vo. 21s. 6d. bds.—*McCaull's Sketches of Judaism and the Jews*, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Sprague on True Christianity*, 12mo. 5s. cl.—*Payne on Divine Sovereignty, Election, &c.*, 2nd edit. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Blomfield's Lectures on the Acts*, 3rd edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—*Short's History of the Church of England*, new edit. 8vo. 16s.—*Adam on the Sealed Book*, 8vo. 8s. 6d. bds.—*Colour as a Means of Art*, crown 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Humour and Pathos*, by G. R. W. Baxter, crown 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—*Foster's Essays*, new edit. 6s. cl.—*Travels of Minna and Godfrey in Many Lands*, "Hollaund," fc. 7s. cl.—*Winning's Manual of Comparative Philology*, 8vo. 9s. bds.—*Walker's Themes and Essays*, 12mo. new edit. 3s. 6d. bds.—*Lavater's Original Maxims for the Young*, 32mo. 1s. awd.—*Edith, a Tale of the Azores*, and other Poems, post 8vo. 8s. 6d. cl.—*Guest's History of English Rhymes*, 2 vols. 8vo. 21s. cl.—*Blomfield's Family Prayers*, new edit. 8vo. 4s. 6d. bds.—*Peter Schlemihl, from the German*, by E. Rouillon, 18mo. 3s. cl.—*Miscellaneous Poems*, by A. T. Log, 8vo. cl. 5s.—*Chapters on Coronations*, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—*Fortune's Epitome of the Funds*, new edit. fc. 6s. cl.—*Finden's Royal Gallery of British Art*, No. 1, folio, 23s. proof, 42s.—*Retsch's Outlines to Shakespeare's "King Lear"*, 4to. 19s. bds.—*Hemans's Lyrics*, new edit. with Life, 12mo. 8s. 6d. cl.—*Poems*, by the author of 'The Bridal of Naworth,' 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Tablet of Memory*, 14th edit. brought down to 1837, 12mo. 6s. cl.—*Bond's Geography for Children*, 18mo. 9s. awd.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR APRIL.
KEPT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE APARTMENTS OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1838.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			External Thermometers.						REMARKS.		
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Dew Point at 9 A.M., deg Fahr. Diff. of Wet and Dry Bulb Thermometer.	Fahrenheit.		Self-registering		Rain in inches. Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.		
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.			A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest				
○ 1	30.204	30.198	51.4	30.164	30.158	44.5	32	02.2	34.5	40.0	30.3	51.6	NNE	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Overcast. Evening, Fine and clear—sharp frost.)	
M 2	30.056	30.050	46.2	29.914	29.906	43.3	29	01.3	36.3	46.0	29.8	40.8	WSW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev.—Fine—light clouds. (A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Overcast—light wind. Evening, Cloudy.)	
T 3	29.978	29.972	48.5	29.934	29.926	43.7	33	01.6	39.4	43.4	34.3	47.3	N	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Overcast—light wind. Evening, Cloudy.)	
W 4	29.928	29.922	47.2	29.942	29.936	47.0	39	03.9	47.8	54.4	39.3	49.7	.016	W	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Overcast. Evening, band very cloudy.) (The same.)
T 5	30.014	30.008	52.2	29.934	29.926	50.3	40	02.4	51.4	56.2	44.9	55.2	W	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Cloudy—it, wind. Ev.—Fine—light clouds. (A.M. Overcast—light wind—rain during the night—overcast the rest of the day. Rain at night.)	
F 6	29.706	29.700	50.6	29.726	29.720	53.2	45	03.5	52.8	58.3	48.3	56.9	.036	W	Overcast—high wind throughout the day, with occasional rain.
S 7	29.550	29.542	52.5	29.326	29.320	53.4	48	03.6	51.7	52.6	50.3	58.8	.033	SW	(A.M. Overcast—light rain with high wind. Fine—light clouds with high wind the rest of the day. Fine—light clouds—high wind.)
○ 8	29.188	29.182	49.7	29.340	29.334	50.6	42	02.9	41.8	48.9	41.5	52.8	.200	W	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—sharp frost during the night. P.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. (A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds—high wind. (A.M. Evening, Fine—light clouds.)
M 9	29.762	29.756	50.7	29.868	29.862	50.3	37	04.9	43.7	47.6	40.0	49.6	NW	Fine—lt. clouds with brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine & clear.	
QT 10	30.060	30.052	51.2	30.064	30.056	51.6	42	05.8	50.7	58.0	41.2	51.5	SSW	(A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds—high wind. (A.M. Evening, Fine—light clouds.)	
W 11	30.184	30.178	60.8	30.084	30.078	54.7	46	00.6	54.0	63.4	48.8	59.2	S	A.M. Fine—light clouds & wind. P.M. Fine & cloudless. Ev. Cloudy.	
T 12	30.230	30.222	60.2	30.194	30.188	54.6	44	04.9	49.6	55.7	43.0	64.2	NW	Fine and cloudless—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine & clear.	
F 13	30.276	30.270	58.3	30.180	30.172	52.3	40	02.6	47.0	48.5	38.0	56.4	NW	A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Overcast the rest of the day.	
S 14	29.986	29.980	49.4	30.002	29.996	49.7	42	04.9	46.2	49.7	43.8	50.8	S	Overcast throughout the day.	
○ 15	29.792	29.786	49.0	29.692	29.688	51.8	42	02.6	47.0	55.8	44.2	50.3	SW	Overcast—lt. brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Light rain—h. wind.	
M 16	29.718	29.712	51.7	29.664	29.658	49.2	34	06.6	43.5	43.4	37.8	56.8	.050	NW var.	Overcast—high wind throughout the day, with occasional rain & snow.
T 17	29.628	29.620	49.3	29.648	29.642	46.2	32	05.0	40.8	45.3	33.3	46.7	.025	NW	(A.M. Lightly overcast—high wind. P.M. Light rain. Evening, Overcast—lt. rain with high wind.)
W 18	29.724	29.716	44.2	29.716	29.708	44.6	33	04.6	38.7	44.0	34.4	46.3	.075	NW	(Overcast—lt. rain with high wind throughout the day. Evening, Snow and rain with high wind.)
T 19	29.716	29.708	41.8	29.706	29.698	43.7	35	02.5	36.2	42.8	34.4	44.7	.011	NW	Overcast—lt. wind with occasional rain throughout the day. Ev. Hail.
F 20	29.772	29.766	44.9	29.720	29.712	43.5	34	03.4	41.3	38.3	35.3	44.0	NNW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds. P.M. Overcast—light snow, rain, and wind. Evening, Light rain.)	
S 21	29.658	29.652	42.3	29.556	29.550	44.7	35	04.5	41.8	47.4	36.2	44.0	.127	NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and clear—high wind.)
○ 22	29.182	29.176	42.7	29.250	29.246	44.2	35	04.4	41.9	54.5	36.8	48.3	E var.	(A.M. Overcast—very light rain—high wind. High wind throughout the night. P.M. Overcast.)	
M 23	29.372	29.366	49.3	29.296	29.290	48.7	37	01.6	50.3	52.8	41.0	51.5	S	(A.M. Cloudy—lt. wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clouds & wind. Ev. Overcast.)	
T 24	29.460	29.454	47.4	29.566	29.558	48.8	40	03.5	44.8	49.4	40.8	54.7	.055	NE	(A.M. Overcast—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind.)
W 25	29.740	29.732	51.4	29.756	29.750	49.7	41	03.5	47.0	46.4	38.2	50.6	.036	NNE	(Evening, Light rain—brisk wind nearly the whole of the day. Evening, Lightning with high wind.)
T 26	29.864	29.856	47.6	29.904	29.898	48.9	42	02.6	46.0	44.9	43.0	51.0	NW	Overcast—lt. high wind throughout the day.	
F 27	29.926	29.920	47.8	29.900	29.892	47.8	37	05.0	43.8	46.8	37.8	49.2	NNE	(A.M. Lightly overcast—high wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind.)	
S 28	29.840	29.836	51.3	29.764	29.756	46.8	35	05.5	43.8	48.7	35.0	47.7	NNE	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Overcast—light rain.)	
○ 29	29.708	29.704	60.3	29.696	29.692	48.0	32	06.7	41.2	46.2	36.2	50.4	NW	(A.M. Fine—lt. clouds, wind. P.M. Overcast—lt. snow & wind. Ev. Very light rain.)	
M 30	29.546	29.540	45.7	29.506	29.500	48.2	35	05.4	45.7	50.5	38.8	47.0	SE	(A.M. Overcast—light brisk wind. P.M. Very light rain. Evening, Rainbow visible, with lt. rain—rest of evening overcast.)	
MEAN.	29.792	29.786	49.9	29.767	29.761	48.5	37.9	03.8	44.7	49.0	39.2	50.9	SUM.	9 A.M. 3 P.M.	
														F. 29.739 29.718	
														C. 29.732 29.711	

SOUTHEY, †††††, AND WORDSWORTH
ON THE COPYRIGHT QUESTION.

Once again we must advert to the proposed alteration in the law of copyright; and should the general reader be of opinion that this iteration is somewhat wearisome, it will, we trust, be excused in a literary journal. The question so materially affects the interests of literature and literary men, that we naturally feel a more than ordinary interest in the event, now that the battle is to be fought, and bills are actually before Parliament, not only for extending the term of copyright, but for an international law for its protection. It is not, however, our intention to pour out all the tediousness on the subject which is suggested by the pile of pamphlets, petitions, and discussions which have accumulated before us; but, as it has been set forth by the book-sellers that there is "no petition to the Honourable House, nor any statement in favour of the measure," "from a single individual," "intended to be benefited,"—and as the silence of Wordsworth, Southey, and Moore have been, by others, specifically referred to, we think it right to put on record the opinions of these distinguished persons, that should the bill be lost on the present occasion, the good cause, which cannot but triumph in the end, may always have the weight and influence of such names in its favour. We believe that we commit no breach of confidence in printing the remarkable letter which follows, from Mr. Southey. It was written in February, 1831, in answer to one in which Lord Brougham, then Lord Chancellor, asked Mr. Southey's opinion as to whether the extension of the Guelphic order to literary men, or any other means of encouraging literature, could be advantageously adopted by the government. The last paragraph of it shows how strongly Mr. Southey has long ago expressed himself on the question of Copyright. The "Grand Dinner of Type & Co." is from the *Chronicle*, and needs no signature to be affixed to it. Mr. Wordsworth's

letter to Serjeant Talfourd has appeared in the daily papers.

To the Lord Chancellor Brougham and Vaux.

Keweenaw Feb 1 1831

My LORD.—The letter which your Lordship did me the honour of addressing to me at this place, found me at Crediton, in the middle of the last month, on a circumlocution homeward. It was not likely that your Lordship would lead me to alter the notions which I have entertained upon the subject that has, in this most unexpected manner, been brought before me; but I should have deemed it disrespectful to you, had I not been communicating without allowing some days to intervene. The distance between Devonshire and Cumberland, a visit upon the way to my native city which I had not seen for twenty years, and the engrossments arising upon one's return home after an absence of unusual length, will explain, and I trust excuse, the subsequent delay...

Your first question is, whether Letters would gain by the more avowed and active encouragement of the government? There are literary works of national importance which

There are literary works of national importance which can only be performed by co-operative labour, and will never be undertaken by that spirit of trade which are present preponderates in literature. The formation of an English Etymological Dictionary is one of those works; others might be mentioned; and in this way literature might gain much by receiving national encouragements; but governments would gain a great deal more by bestowing a revolution in royal governments, and this I should say if I could believe that our legitimate one would learn it before it is too late. I am addressing one who is a statesman as well as a man of letters, and who is well aware that the time is come in which government can no more stand without pens to support them, than without bayonets. They must soon know, if they do not already know it, that the volunteers as well as the mercenaries of both professions who are not enlisted in this service, will enlist themselves against it; and I am afraid they have a better hold upon the soldiers than upon the pennan; because the former has, in the spirit of his profession and in the sense of military honour, something which not unfrequently supplies the want of any higher principle; and I know not that any substitute is to be found among the gentlemen of the press.

But neediness, my Lord, makes men dangerous members of society, quite as often as affluence makes them worthless ones. I am of opinion that many persons who become bad subjects because they are necessitous,—because “the world is not their friend, nor the world’s law,” might be kept virtuous, (or, at least, withheld from mischief,) by being made happy, by early encouragement, by holding out to them a

reasonable hope of obtaining, in good time, an honourable station and a competent income, as the reward of literary pursuits, when followed with ability and diligence, and recommended by good conduct.

My Lord, you are now on the conservative side. Minor differences of opinion are infinitely insignificant at this time, when in truth there are but two parties in this kingdom,

the Revolutionists and the Loyalists,—those who would destroy the Constitution, and those who would defend it. We can have no predictions for the present Administration; but they have raised the Devil, who is now raging through the land; but, in their present position, it is their business to lay him. If they can, and, so far as their measures may be directed to that end, I heartily say, God speed them! Their schemes like yours, for the encouragement of letters, have never entered into their wishes, there can be no place for them at present in their intentions. Government can have no leisure now for attending to anything but its own and our preservation; and the time seems not far distant when the care of war and expenditure will come upon it once more, with their all-engrossing importance. But when better times shall arrive, (whoever may live to see them,) it will be worthy the consideration of any government whether the institution of an Academy, with salaries for its members, (in the nature of literary or lay benefices,) might not be the means of retaining in *its* interests, as connected with their own, a certain number of influential men of letters, who should hold those benefices, and a much greater number of aspirants who would look to them in their turn. A yearly grant of 10,000^{l.} would endow ten such appointments of 500^{l.} each for the elder class, and twenty-five of 200^{l.} for younger men; those latter eligible, of course, and preferably, but not necessarily, to be elected to the higher benefices, as those fell vacant, and as they should have approved them.

The good proposed by this, as a political measure, is not that of retaining such persons to act as pamphleteers and journalists, but that of preventing them from becoming such, in hostility to the established order of things; and of giving men of letters, as a class, something to look for beyond the precarious gains of literature; thereby inducing in them

Your Lordship's second question, in what way the encouragement of government could most safely and beneficially be given, is, in the main, answered by what has been said upon the first. I do not enter into any details of the proposed Institution, for that would be to think of fitting up a castle in the air. Nor is it worth while to examine how far such an Institution might be perverted. **Abuses** there would be, as in the disposal of all preferments, civil, military, or ecclesiastical; but there would be a more ob-

vious check upon them: and when they occurred, they would be less injurious in their consequences than they are in the State, the Army and Navy, or the Church.

With regard to prizes, methinks they are better left to schools and colleges. Honours are worth something to scientific men, because they are conferred upon such men in other countries; at home there are precedents for them in Newton and Davy,—and the Physicians and Surgeons have them. In my judgment, men of letters are better without them, unless they are rich enough to bequeath to their family a good estate with the bloody hand, and sufficiently men of the world to think such distinctions appropriate. For myself, if we had a Guelphic Order, I should choose to remain a Ghibelline.

I have written thus fully and frankly, not dreaming that your proposal is likely to be matured and carried into effect, but in the spirit of good-will, and as addressing one by whom there is no danger that I can be misunderstood. *One thing alone I ask from the Legislature, and in the name of justice, that the injurious law of copyright should be repealed, and that the family of an Author should not be deprived of their just and natural rights in his works when his permanent reputation is established. This I ask with the earnestness of a man who is conscious that he has laboured for posterity.*

I remain, my Lord, yours, with due respect,

ROBERT SOUTHHEY.

Grand Dinner of Type & Co.

A POOR POET'S DREAM.

As I sat in my study, lone and still,
Thinking of Sergeant Talfourd's Bill,
And the speech by Lawyer Sudden made,
In spirit congenial, for "the Trade,"
Sudden I sunk to sleep, and, lo,
Upon Fancy's relentless night-mare hitting,
I sound myself, in a second or so.

At the table of Messrs. Type & Co.

With a goodly group of diners sitting:—
All in the printing and publishing line,
Drest, I thought, extremely fine,
And sipping, like lords, their rosy wine;
While I, in a state new inanition,
With coat that hadn't much nap to spare,
(Having just gone into its second edition,)—

Was the only wretch of an author there.

But fancy, how great was my surprise,
When I saw, in casting round my eyes,
That the dishes, sent up by Type's she-cooks,
Bore all, in appearance, the shape of books;
Large folios.—God knows where they got 'em;
In these small times,—at top and bottom;
And quartos (such as the Press provides
For no one to read them) down the sides.
Then flashed a horrible thought on my brain,
And I said to myself, "tis all too plain,
Like those, well known in school quotations,*
Who ate up for dinner their own relations,
I see now, before me, smoking here,
The bodies and bones of my brethren dear:—
Bright sons of the lyric and epic Muse,
All cut up in cutlets, or hash'd in stews;
Their works, a light through ages to go.—
Themselves, eaten up by Type & Co.!"

While thus I moralized, on them went,
Finding the fare most excellent;
And all so kindly, brother to brother,
Helping the tiddlers to each other:
"A slice of Southey let me send you,"—
"This cut of Campbell I recommend you,"—
"And here, my friends, is a treat indeed,
The immortal Wordsworth friescase'd!"

Thus having, the cormorants, fed some time,
Upon joints of poetry,—all of the prime,—
With also (as Type in a whisper aver'd it)
"Cold press on the sideboard, for such as prefer'd it,"—
They rested awhile, to recruit their force,
And then pounced like kites, on the second course,
Which was merely small singing-birds—Moore and others—
Who all shared the fate of their larger brothers;
And, swarming now though such songsters be,
Twas really quite distressing to see
A whole dishful of Toms.—Moore, Dibdin, Bayly,—
Boiled by Type & Co. so gaily!

Nor was this the worst—I shudder to think
What a scene was disclosed when they came to drink.
The warriors of Odin, as every one knows,
Used to drink out of sculls of slaughter'd foes:
And Type's old port, my horror I found,
Was in sculls of bard's sent merrily round.
And, still as each well-fil'd cranium came,
A health was pledged to its owner's name;
While Type said slyly, midst general laughter,
"We eat them up first, and then drink to them after."

There was no standing this—incensed I broke
From my bonds of sleep, and indignant awoke,
Exclaiming, "Oh shades of other times,
Whose voices still sound, like deathless chimes,
Could you e'er have foretold a day would be,
When a dreamer of dreams could so clearly see
A party of sleek and honest John Bulls
Thus hobnobbing each other in poets' sculls!"

To Sergeant Talfourd, M.P.

Rydal Mount, April 18, 1838.

MY DEAR SIR,—A strong opposition, which has manifested itself by public meetings and petitions to the House of Commons, having started up among printers, publishers, and others to your bill for amending the law of copyrights, and no like counter-movement being made by authors on

* — qui scribit prandia ssvi
Tereos; aut coemus, crude Thysta, turam.—MARTIAL.

their part, it has been suggested to me, from quarters entitled to great respect, that it might be of service if, along with a most distinguished literary friend, I should present a petition to Parliament, praying that the bill may pass, or at least one in favour of its principle. This compliment has no doubt been paid me as one among the oldest of living writers, and one, therefore, whose heirs must, in course of nature, be injured sooner than those of younger men, if the proposed measure be rejected. You will not be surprised if I feel some scruple in taking a step, though so well recommended, on account of an aversion to appear prominently in any public question, and because I am loth to think so unfavourably of Parliament as to deem that it requires petitions from authors as a ground for granting them a privilege the justice of which is so obvious. I cannot bring myself to suppose that the mere shadows of argument advanced by printers and publishers against the claims of a class to whom they owe the respectability of their condition, if not their very existence, should avail with any intelligent and disinterested assembly. Yet further am I averse thus to petition Parliament because I would not ask as an individual supplicant, or with a single associate, what in equity I consider to be the right of a class, and for a much longer period than that defined in your bill—for ever. Such right, as you have stated in your admirable speech, was acknowledged by the common law of England: and let them who have cried out so loudly against the extension of the term as is now proposed show cause why that original right should not be restored. The onus clearly rests with them to do so; but they have not attempted it, and are glad to take shelter under the statute law as it now stands, which is a composition or compromise between two opinions: the extreme point of one being that, by giving his thoughts to the world, an author abandons all right to consider the vehicle as private property; and of the other, that he has the right in perpetuity, that descends to his heirs, and is transferable to those to whom he or they may assign it.

This right I hold to be more deeply inherent in that species of property than in any other, though I am aware that many persons, perceiving wherein it differs from acquisitions made in trade and commerce, &c., have contended that the law in respect to literature ought to remain upon the same footing as that which regards the profits of mechanical inventions and chemical discoveries; but that this is an utter fallacy might easily be proved.

From the considerations above stated I decline to petition, as suggested, and content myself, in the silence of others better entitled to speak, with the public declaration of my judgment, that at least, my dear sir, you may not be liable to be treated as a volunteer intruding without wish or sanction openly expressed by any one of the class whose rights and interests you have, so much to your honour, stepped forward to maintain. Here this letter shall close, its purpose being answered, for no general arguments from me, and no statement of facts belonging to my own case, and which have come to my knowledge with respect to my illustrious friends Coleridge, Scott, Southey, and others, would avail to produce conviction where that has not been effected by your unrivalled speech made upon your first introduction of the bill into the House of Commons, and by reasonings which have lately been set forth with great ability by writers in the public journals, who were more at liberty to enter into details than you could be while treating the subject before Parliament.

Should your bill be overthrown, which I cannot allow myself to fear, by the interested opposition now at work, justice nevertheless, sooner or later, must triumph; and at all events the respect and gratitude which authors feel towards you and your coadjutors upon this occasion will be cherished by them to the last hour of their lives.

I have the honour to be, my dear sir, faithfully yours,

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

ABYSSINIA.

Letter from Mr. J. Russegger, Chief of the Austrian Mining Expedition.

Roserre, in the country of Fasoglo, Dec. 19, 1837.

AFTER a most agreeable journey up the beautiful banks of the Blue River, I have happily arrived here, in the country of Fasoglo, on the south-western frontier of Abyssinia. All our troops united here yesterday, and, in a few days, we shall set out on our campaign to the unknown south. We shall touch at all the points which Caillaud has visited before me; but then penetrate farther, and, under God's protection, arrive, at the end of next month, at Fadassi, in the country of the Galla, whither no European has yet advanced. The country of the Galla hordes, in the heart of Africa, is, at present, the contemplated extent of my travels; by which, I believe that I shall be able, in the first place, to solve two important geographical questions,—namely, the existence of the Mountains of the Moon; and then the course of the White River, or, as it is called, the White Nile. By my former journey into the country of the Nuba negroes, south of Kordofan, the existence of the Mountains of the Moon, at least in the district into which they have been conjured in the maps, is rendered very problematical; and with respect to the White River, I think I have already reason to be convinced that it flows in a direction precisely contrary to that assigned it on the maps, for it rises

in the country of the Galla and Schangala, and flows parallel to the Blue River, or Blue Nile: this for the present; for the detail of such inquiries demands time, knowledge, and paper. Of the first and third I have none,—at least, none to spare; and knowledge I must gain on my journey, which will take, at least, two months from this place.—(Roserre lies in 12° 3' N. lat.) On this journey I shall have the opportunity of seeing much that is new and worthy of admiration in every department of natural history; for no person can have a conception of the magnificent, I might say the fantastic, development of organic forms in the equatorial countries of Africa, unless he has previously seen tropical America on the banks of its mighty rivers, or India. Thirdly, I hope that the mineralogist will not fail of a cheerful welcome; and then I shall be able to communicate to Mehemet Ali discoveries greatly to his interest. Thus I have found, and pointed out, a thick vein of argenterous quartz in clay slate, in the mountains of Schegedi, in Sennaar; likewise the chain of the Okelai and Keduss, on the western frontier of Abyssinia, a prodigious great vein of quartzite granite, consisting of quartz, with disseminated copper and silver ores of various kind. I have thus found a further confirmation of the fact of which I was before convinced, that nature has deposited an immense mass of mineral wealth in the isolated and small mountains of equatorial Africa. I am now acquainted with the great kingdom of Mehemet Ali, from Taurus, in Asia Minor, to Fasoglo, in the interior of Africa, from the 37th to the 12th degree of latitude, and can only feel astonishment at the treasures which nature has deposited in the earth. If the government proceeds with the necessary energy to turn these treasures to account, it may well be able to compete with many other countries, with the exception of coal; for I do not think that the stratum found in Mount Lebanon is very extensive.

I am now, for the second time, on the point of passing the southern boundary of Mehemet Ali's kingdom. We are here already surrounded by mountains inhabited by free negroes; hence, every excursion must be made, as in the country of the Nubas, with arms in your hand. The population of these mountains is astonishing. The Tabu Mountains, eight leagues from our camp, are able, at a moment's warning, to send into the field from 10,000 to 15,000 negroes, armed with lances and two-edged swords; we, therefore, take good care not to go too near to those mountains. The mountains in the interior of Africa form no great connected chain, like our Alps, Carpathians, Pyrenees, &c., but stand isolated, in groups, on the immense Savannah. There are no mountains like our Ankogli, Glockner, Scharneck, &c. which lift their heads, covered with eternal ice and snow, into the dark blue sky, and look down on the lovely, richly cultivated valleys of my native land. The mountains of this country are of picturesque forms, but low, for I have not yet seen any one that has an elevation of 3000 feet above the level of the sea. But then we have here other beauties unknown in Europe: the magnificence of the tropical forests, the noble groups of palms, adonias, and tamarinds, enlivened with manifold climbing plants, glowing with flowers, beautiful as the magic creation of the richest fancy, peopled by birds, shining in the splendid plumage of the torrid zone, and the retreat of the rarest animals of our menageries. The Savannah, a wide, boundless grass forest, (the grass attaining a height of twelve or fifteen feet, and forming a mass impervious as a wall,) alternating with thickets of mimosa, leucaena in extent, crossed and interwoven with thorny parasitic plants—impenetrable to man—the retreat of lions, tigers, hyenas, &c. extends across Africa on the equator, from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. It is difficult to form an idea of such a grass forest as we found in the Savannah, chiefly in the vicinity of great rivers. On my journey from Sennaar to this place I once lost myself, when out shooting in this grass. Only one black man accompanied me. We saw nothing but the dry stems, amidst which we could scarcely stir, and a very small portion of sky over our heads. It was towards noon; the heat was dreadful; burning thirst tormented us; and I had no compass to guide me. I attempted to cut a way with a great hunting knife, but in vain; fatigue obliged me to renounce the fruitless attempt. It cost us two painful hours to traverse a distance

which might minutes; a pressing the every step. It is a part of free hitherto partly chain once saw a seeing his tail, but other occasions day without The night we in the Savannah door, and to the neig' wards we b' caravans re were stan' gins in the camels, and a stanchion a stand light afford' of our taking' without as the Cal- as the St. met, in a of giraffes, fed with a village, con' buts, of w' dence of called She here, he is comes about the have give' trices, such which ma' strange en' large chief twist' the two en' to the etio' sword bor' by a num' swords, an' here are, slender, a' nance ha' and have neighbour' monkeys' their skin' people, a excursion' On the w' ciple: man' humanity suffer as their v' pangs, we' now, we' travel ov' Man, in' not'ions; He is ruc' to be ma' inchaus' his sens' ness and neg' any reas' w; and, are in t' whether Turk'; white man' my sister' How this people' ness; wh' without a soul ha' excessive

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How much is it to be regretted that the history of this people is involved in such impenetrable darkness; while we in the north can scarcely take a step without treading on historical ground. There is not a soul here able to unveil the past to our view. Such excessively dense populations in small tracts of coun

which might otherwise have been passed in ten minutes; and we got forward only by each of us pressing the grass aside with both hands; so that every step in advance was made with incredible labour.

It is a peculiarly interesting sight to behold in a state of freedom, and wild, animals which we have hitherto been used to see only in menageries, and partly chained up. Thus, on our journey hither, we once saw a tiger which manifested its pleasure at seeing the caravan, by violently lashing his sides with his tail, but suffered us to pass unmolested. On another occasion, we had to pass a night and half a day without water, on account of these creatures. The night was far advanced, when we encamped in the Savannah; the moon shone in the utmost splendour, and I sent several of our negroes with camels to the neighbouring river to fetch water. Soon afterwards we heard some shots fired, and saw the little caravan retreating. It appeared that three tigers were standing in the way near to the river, and seemed to wait for them. The negroes fired their guns in the air, but the tigers maintained their ground; the camels trembled, and reared, and would not advance a step; it was necessary to turn back, for the light afforded by the moon was too deceitful to allow of our taking a certain aim. Nor did the tigers notwithstanding our military attitude, fall on their knees, as the Calas, on the Red Sea, are said to have done to the St. Simonians. Not far from this place we met, in a fine forest of mimosas, with a whole troop of giraffes, which gazed at us for a moment, and then fled with the utmost rapidity. Roserres, vast negro camp, consisting entirely of Toguls,—that is, conical huts, of woven Durra straw or rushes,—is the residence of the Melek (king) of Fasoglo, generally called Sheik Soliman. Like most of the negroes here, he is a Mohammedan, a worthy old soul, who comes almost every day to my tent to talk with me about the distant Pelletel-Franki (Europeans). I have given him a double-barrelled gun, and various trifles, such as little looking-glasses, tinder-box, &c. which made him quite happy. His appearance is strange enough. He is black, tall, lean, wears a large white shirt, a great, many-coloured handkerchief twisted round his body, and a cap on his head, the two ends of which are bent upwards. According to the etiquette of the country, he always has a large sword borne after him, and is constantly surrounded by a numerous train of negroes, armed with lances, swords, and shields made of rhinoceros skin. The people here are, in general, very handsome, strong, nervous, slender, sinewy—real forms of gods; their countenances have not the stupidity of the southern negroes, and have no resemblance whatever to their western neighbours, the Dinkas, who really look more like monkeys than men, except the deep black colour of their skin. We live on very good terms with these people, and I do not hesitate frequently to make excursions to considerable distances quite alone. On the whole, I have not yet departed from my principle: man is everywhere man if he is treated with humanity. If the negroes here had never had to suffer the horrible barbarities of the Turks and Arabs, as their western neighbours have those of the Europeans, we might fearlessly visit all the tribes; whereas now, we require an escort of two thousand men to travel over a distance of three degrees of latitude. Man, in a state of nature, is rude, according to our notions; and we are in his mind ravenous beasts. He is rude, but good tempered as a child; as easily to be made a friend as an enemy: you must have inexhaustible patience with him, and gradually make him sensible of an intellectual superiority by kindness and benefits. It seems quite natural to me that these negroes, who were fired upon last year without any reason whatever, should now desire to murder us; and, according to their notions of morality, they are in the right. The negro does not distinguish whether "you are a German, a Frenchman, or a Turk"; he says, "You are a white man; and a white man like you murdered my parents, dishonoured my sisters, and carried my brother into slavery."

How much is it to be regretted that the history of this people is involved in such impenetrable darkness; while we in the north can scarcely take a step without treading on historical ground. There is not a soul here able to unveil the past to our view. Such excessively dense populations in small tracts of coun

try, their division into a countless number of little states, differing in manners, language, and notions, engaged in continual wars with each other, necessarily suppose a succession of action. If these actions were nothing but combats, it would be interesting to know something of these black heroes; and doubly interesting to have some more accurate information respecting the great migrations in the interior of Africa, which, in some degree, still continue. Thus, for instance, we know of the migrations of the Gondjars from west to east, from the savannahs of Darfour to the mountains of Abyssinia; the migration of the Fungi from the unknown regions in the south-west to the north-east, and their conquest of Sennar; the great migration of the Galla from the south to Abyssinia; but we do not know the occasion, or all the consequences of their migrations, or the original seats of those nations.

Dec. 21.—We have left Roserres, and proceed up the river to join our escort. We are now in the camp of Mustapha Bey, my old friend, from Khardum. He is an honest soldier, who possesses knowledge and good manners. The life in a camp is now not new to us; we are accustomed to this disorderly order. Our corps of troops amounts to 2000 men; namely, 1000 regular negro infantry, 800 negro militia, and 200 irregular cavalry. The mass of tents and arms, the number of camels and horses, their braying, neighing, and trampling, at night the long lines of the camp fires which illuminate the dark mimosa forests, form a peculiar and fine military spectacle. We have need of some caution in making excursions here, partly on account of the negroes of the Gebbel Taby, and partly on account of the numerous lions, which have already killed a soldier and a camel. The lion that killed them was brought dead into the camp; a large, handsome, royal beast. It was the largest that I have yet seen; for the body alone, without the head and the tail, measures seven Paris feet in length. The head was a foot and a half long; hence you may have an idea of the formidable jaws, and the enormous strength of this animal. The mane was thick and long. I have preserved the fine hide.

Dec. 24.—To-day (Christmas-eve), at a quarter past six in the morning, at sunrise, we had a temperature of 10° Reaumur; but at two in the afternoon the mercury has risen to 31° Reaumur (nearly 102° Fahrenheit) in the shade, consequently a difference of 21° , and yet this climate agrees with us remarkably well, since the south wind and the tropical rains have ceased. Ahmed Pacha has, by this time, probably reached Khardum; his present object is said to be the military occupation of the country of Fasoglo, and the province of Kalabat, on the west side of Abyssinia, where Khurschid Pacha has already established himself with about 3000 men, and negotiated with the Ras Ali of Abyssinia, respecting the late disorders in Kalabat. At all events, these southern provinces of the Viceroy acquire an increased military strength by the succour of Ahmed Pacha, and a more respectable attitude towards Abyssinia.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The April number of the *Westminster Review* has been issued since our last publication, and is, on the whole, something above the average. It contains two articles on subjects of French literature, two on subjects of practical utility, three of a political tendency, and one on the writings of Thomas Hood. In the second article, a rather sharp reprimand is given to the Statistical Society for the exclusion of opinions from its Transactions, which, though founded in a great truth, is not, we think, altogether merited. The main end of tabulating facts is, we admit, to derive from them a clearer notion of some general truth, which has not hitherto been sufficiently tested. Further, we hold with the reviewer, that it is impossible to tabulate an immense variety of facts to any useful purpose, except with a reference to matters of opinion. But with respect to the charge against the Society, we fancy that its rule of exclusion, though generally expressed, is practically intended to reach only to political and religious opinion; and to that extent reserve is amply justified by the state of public feeling. It is true that the benefit to be expected from Statistical inquiries is the disabusing of society of some of its prejudices, which operate dif- fensively and deeply against the peace and the happiness of mankind. Being, however, prejudices, and therefore taking for granted the very issue to be tried, their universal prevalence would absolutely tend not merely to prevention, but to the *Burking* of all inquiry, should the principles be prominently assailed in debate, before the facts were undeniably ascertained. We firmly believe that, save under such a restriction as the Society have adopted, no statistical association could have been formed in this country, or, if formed, that it could not have lived through a single session. The English nation have been too much habituated to search for truth in a given latitude, to tolerate willingly even the evidence of the senses, when that evidence points to another direction. They profess to be a practical people, hating and distrusting all general reasonings; and therefore the Society, however unphilosophical its present mode of procedure, is warranted in adopting it, as the only one from which any good result can, under the circumstances, be expected. Still we rejoice that attention has been drawn to the proceedings of the Society. It has been a subject of general observation that the conduct of those in power has been hitherto most lamentably inefficient. It is justly observed by the writer in the *Westminster*, that during the four years which the Society has been established, there has been but one solitary Report (On the State of Education in Westminster, *Athen.* No. 531), and that a feeble imitation of what the Manchester and Liverpool societies took the lead in doing, and have done repeatedly.—Another article is on the Post Office, and we find in our contemporary a valuable fellow labourer. The most available argument (that *ad crumenam*) has been sufficiently worked. Another, however, which refers to the moral influence of a cheap postage, addresses itself to a very large class of persons—the religious world; and it merits continued repetition. The influence of frequent communication with parents and relations is so decidedly favourable to the development of a sound moral feeling, and to the education of the heart, (and that more especially in a country in which this branch of education is nearly overlooked, and all but totally neglected in the schools,) that all who profess to love their species and to be solicitous for the welfare of the poor, are bound in consistency to take up a cheap postage, as a means to that proposed end. "One of the best securities for good conduct," says a clergyman, whose evidence is quoted in the *Westminster*, "where young people have been well brought up, is the preservation of home feelings in all their freshness, and the nurturing and cherishing of all the pure and wholesome influences that belong to the family relations. Give me a girl who left the parent's roof pure, and, as long as she writes freely to her mother, I shall scarcely fear for her virtue. Give me a youth who finds a pleasure in devoting a spare half hour in the evening to the sister whom he has left behind him, and there is a chain upon him which, if it does not hold him back from evil, will check him in the pursuit of it. Now when one considers the immense scale upon which the enormous tax upon letters is separating the nearest friends, and insulating during the most critical portion of life, those who want every help to strengthen them against temptation, I feel that the *conomical* part of the question is quite superseded by the moral part." And so it really is.—To relieve these weighty matters, there is a pleasant paper on the Whig ministers, in their character of authors, which will afford unexpected information to many. The criticism, however, is a curious mixture of praise and blame, in which both are dealt out too much under the influence of political feelings to be entirely depended upon. On the whole, however, the paper throws some useful light on the intellectual peculiarities of the individuals in question, and may tend to mitigate political asperities.

Since our last notice of the National Gallery, Lord Farnborough's pictures have been added, besides some others. They comprise a magnificent *Canal*; the *Praying Child*, by Reynolds; a large fine *Sunset*, by Vandermeer, in his fierce lurid style, with figures by Cuyp; a pair of exquisite sea pieces, by *Vandervelde*, interiors by *Teniers*, &c. The Catalogue, but just published, will need augmentation, and emendation too, it appears, as the four beautiful little works ascribed to *Watteau* are now found out

to be by *Lancet*, his pupil, imitator,—and, some maintain, his equal. Perhaps indeed the emendation might go somewhat farther with advantage; various other works in the collection, we regret to find, are still suffered to mislead the public taste under questionable or positively unwarrantable names. It is not our business, were we competent, to correct a Catalogue put forth with such a high and august imprimatur, neither could the establishment nor its officers be expected to cry down its own treasures; but a frank, fearless, and able analysis, brief without the meagreness of the present Catalogue, full without the superfluity of others which are offered, would benefit purchasers, publishers, author, and Art itself. Why the public is to be left uninstructed on the subject of Art more than on any other, we cannot comprehend; and a good Catalogue *Raisonné*, we conceive, would prove a far better primer to novices than the blank-book of their own ignorance, which alone they must now take for their guide.

The paintings, studies, and sketches, of the late John Constable, R.A. are we see announced for sale on the 16th by Mr. Foster. Most of the studies and sketches exhibit in little the happiest powers of the artist, and a dozen or more of the finished pictures are as fine as any he ever painted, perhaps the finest; we need but name the *View on the River Stour*, *The Lock*, *The Glebe Farm*, *Flatford Mills*, and *The Lock at Flatford Mills*, as instances of excellence. There are not half-a-dozen true painters of native landscape, and Constable is one of them: he has no stolen skies, borrowed temples, nor imported airs: though of the Academy, he has nothing Academic about him: he studied no master either living or dead; he found it better to take from nature what he required, than steal or imitate from others, however well or wisely. Constable cannot be described by comparisons, for he is only like nature, and like no one else: he was, in truth, an honest, conscientious man of Suffolk—a miller he loved to call himself—who made the clear streams and old trees and cattle and skies of that pastoral district do for him, what the scenes of Italy or of the fancy have done for Turner and Claude. Yet, let no stranger imagine, from this, that Constable was a sort of district surveyor, who drew only what he saw: he had the art of rendering the scene poetic as well as real: his taste in selection was great, and enabled him to unite the sober hues of nature with the radiant colours of fancy. To some, and of that number was Fuseli, his scenes show too much of our moist climate: but this is only in comparison with landscapes which reflect happier lands: with no Englishman will this be a fault; we account it a great merit. We shall envy those who at the sale are lucky enough to obtain *Flatford Mills*, *The Lock*, and other pictures, which in our mind, contain much of the excellence and few of the faults of this eminent master.

We understand that the Council of King's College, London, have made arrangements for establishing a class for Civil Engineering and Mining. Instruction is to be given in the requisite branches of the Mathematics, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Chemical Science, Geology, Mineralogy, Metallurgy, Machine-Drawing, Practical Perspective, &c. Students are to be admitted at the age of fifteen, and the full course of instruction will last three years. The class will be opened in the first week of October next, and conducted by Professors Daniell, Hall, Moseley, Phillips, and Wheatstone.

Mr. Murray has just issued a new list of works in preparation, from which we select the following as of most interest:—‘The Correspondence of William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham,’ edited by the Executors of his Son.—‘Memoirs of General Wolfe, with Extracts from his Correspondence’—‘A new Universal Biography,’—a work much wanted; but we cannot understand how it is to be compressed into one volume, although Mr. Murray refers to a novel arrangement, by which it will be made to contain one-third more information than any similar work of equal bulk.—‘A Hand-book for Travellers in Switzerland’—‘The Art of Deer-stalking, with Legends of the Scotch Forests,’ &c. Mr. William Howitt has also nearly ready for publication ‘Colonization and Christianity,’ being a popular history of the treatment of the natives in all their colonies by the Europeans. Notices of the following works about to

appear have also been forwarded to us:—‘Rambles in the Pyrenees, and a Visit to San Sebastian,’ by F. W. Vaux.—‘A New Translation of Schlegel's Lectures on Dramatic Literature,’ by W. B. Pryce—and ‘A General Outline of the Animal Kingdom,’ by Professor T. R. Jones, of King's College.

We have no choice but to defer noticing many works of art, in the shape of new prints, new publications, which have accumulated upon us with more than usual rapidity. The new edition of the ‘Arabian Nights,’ however, is not to be passed over, nor our acknowledgment of its great beauty postponed. We must be understood as speaking, on the present occasion, of Mr. Harvey's share in the undertaking; for Mr. Lane's version,—though, probably, the most faithful one which has hitherto appeared, and including a large body of valuable and curious information in the shape of notes and commentaries,—has, as yet, the disadvantage of strangeness. Schariar, Scheherezade, Dinarzade, and the familiar Viziers and Genii of our childhood have vanished, and been replaced, in his pages, by personages with names more authentically oriental, but less welcome, as lacking familiarity. Let us, however, return to Mr. Harvey, whom it is difficult to praise too much. We had thought that certain recent French classics attained the *ne plus ultra* of wood-cut illustration; but nationality apart, are bound to say, that M.M. Giguex, Johannet, &c. &c., are exceeded by our countryman. They have given us piquant figures and groups;—he little pictures, of a wonderful cleverness and effect; witness the moonlight meeting between the two Sultans (page 4), or the revel of the princesses and their black lovers, which, here, has almost the grace of a *Decameron* scene; witness the illustrations to the story of the Merchant and the *Jinnee*, in which the evil Spirit—whether in the guise of a pillar of smoke, or, in more tangible presence, wielding a terrible sword over the head of him who had unwittingly destroyed his son with a chance-thrown date-stone—is represented with power and grandeur. We are writing at the eleventh hour,—by the side of the press, as it were,—and are therefore, of necessity, writing hurriedly; but we could not permit a work, so creditable to English art, to make its entrance among the public, without our heartiest recommendation.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS at their Gallery, PALL MALL EAST, is NOW OPEN.—Open each day from 9 till dark.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

R. HILLS, Sec.

Close of the present Exhibition.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

THE GALLERY for the EXHIBITION AND SALE of the WORKS OF BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening, and will be CLOSED on SATURDAY, May 12.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

N.B.—The Gallery will be RE-OPENED early in JUNE, with a Selection of Pictures by Ancient Masters.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

JUST OPENED, DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK. NEW EXHIBITION, representing TIVOLI, with a view of the Cascades; and the Interior of the BASILICA of ST. PAUL before and after its destruction by fire.—Both Pictures are painted by Le Chevalier Bouts.—Open from 10 till 3 o'clock.

The Diorama has opened one of its new marvels to the public.

“The minute care with which the whole work has been finished is astonishing.”—*Times*.

“The illusion is complete.”—*Morning Post*.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

April 26.—Stephen P. Rigaud, Esq. V.P. in the chair.

A paper was read, entitled ‘An Account of a line of Levels, carried across Northern Syria, from the Mediterranean, to the River Euphrates,’ by W. T. Thomson, Esq., with Geological and Botanical Notes by W. Ainsworth, Esq.

The operation of carrying a line of levels across Northern Syria, from the Mediterranean sea to the river Euphrates, was undertaken by Capt. Chesney, at the time he commanded the expedition sent to that river in the year 1835, chiefly with a view to determine the capabilities of the intervening country for the establishment of communications by roads, railways, or canals; but it was expected, also, that the examination would afford information of much historical and geographical interest. It was commenced in August of the same year, by Lieutenant Murphy and Mr. Thomson, assisted by Sergeant Lyne, R.E., Gunner Waddell, and some Maltese; but most of the party being disabled by sickness, and

their numbers reduced by deaths and removals, the levelling was at length conducted principally by Mr. Thomson, with the assistance, in the latter part of the work, of Mr. Elliott, commonly called Dervish Ali. The result of this great labour was to determine the bed of the Euphrates to be 628 feet above the level of the Mediterranean.

The whole of the district over which the line of levels was carried, naturally divides itself into four regions, each of which is characterized by its relative elevation, its peculiar geological structure, its vegetation, and the manners and habits of its population.

The first region, commencing from the Euphrates, comprises the country of the upper chalk and conide limestones, which averages an elevation of 1300 feet, and is but slightly undulated. The soil is light, somewhat stony, and of no great depth, and is highly productive in crops of corn and cotton. These uplands are inhabited by stationary Turcomans and Arabs, who are a mixed race of Fellahs. The large plains of this region are studded over in every direction with numerous mounds, of a more or less circular form, called by the Arabs *Tets*, and by the Turcomans *Heuks*, the origin of which appears to be partly natural and partly artificial. A village is found at the foot of almost every one of these monticules.

The second region comprises the country of oolite limestone and feldspath pyroxene rocks, in the valley of Ghuidaries and the Aphrean, having a mean elevation of 450 feet. This district is extremely fertile, for the most part cultivated, and inhabited by agricultural Kurds.

The third region is the lacustrine plain of Umk, elevated about 305 feet above the Mediterranean, and covered, for the most part, with the gramineous plants which feed the flocks of the pastoral and nomadic Turcomans.

The fourth region, formed by the valley of Antioch, is rocky, irregular, and varying from elevations of 220 to 440 feet. It comprises, also, the alluvial plain of the Orontes, which gradually sinks to the level of the Mediterranean. This latter district is covered with shrubs, which are chiefly evergreens, and inhabited by a few families of Syrians, who, in these picturesque solitudes, chiefly follow mysterious rites, presenting a mixture of Mohammedanism and Christianity. It appears, from the examination of this line of country, that there here exist two distinct regions,—the one low, and already furnished with the means of water transport; and the other elevated, where the waters, which are lost in the valley of Aleppo, might be turned with facility into an artificial channel. Both regions are remarkably level, and present, when separately viewed, very few difficulties to be overcome for the construction of artificial roads.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

May 3.—The Earl of Aberdeen, President, in the chair.—The Secretary read the minutes of the Anniversary Meeting, held April 23, and reported the re-election of the President, Vice-Presidents, and other officers of the Society.

Mr. Pettigrew then read the report of the auditors for the year 1837, and declared a balance in favour of the Society of upwards of 600*l.*, in addition to the funded property, being an increase of 300*l.* during the past year. The reading of Mr. Brandreth's paper, ‘On the Mode of Coinage of the Anglo-Saxon Stycas,’ was continued.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

April 21.—Professor Wilson in the chair.—Capt. Westmacott, T. S. Rawson, Esq., and Major Rawson were elected Members.

Specimens of various Indian products, sent home from Bombay to the Society, and made over to the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, recently established for the purpose of examining and reporting on such articles, were laid on the table. Prof. Royle proceeded to explain the value of those which were rare, and to compare them with similar articles brought into the English market. Among others, we observed specimens of raw silk produced in Bombay and Travancore; of the fibre of the pine-apple, used for stringing beads; besides drugs and dyes, the description and analysis of which we could not distinctly follow. After the remarks of the Professor on these specimens of the vegetable kingdom, he produced before the Society several drawings made

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Feb. 21
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by Dr. Cantor, a naturalist who was present, and who has lately returned from the East, exhibiting a large group of the akalephæ and molluscous tribes, also of reptilia, of the ophidian race in particular, together with some rare, if not entirely new, species of fish, all of which had been carefully dissected and examined on the spot by the doctor, in the course of the survey lately made by the Indian Navy in the north-eastern part of the Bay of Bengal.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 21.—Rev. William Whewell, President, in the chair.

A paper was read on part of Asia Minor, by W. J. Hamilton, Esq. Sec. G.S.

This memoir gave a detailed account of the author's observations on the geological structure of the country from Mount Hassán Dagh, near Akserai, (lat. 38° 20' N., long. about 34°), to the great salt lake of Tsoola, or Kodj-hissar, and thence eastwards to Cesarea and Mount Argæus. The summit of Hassán Dagh is upwards of 8000 feet above the level of the sea; and the whole of the mountain is composed of trachyte and other igneous rocks. At its base are several volcanic cones; and as they are situated in the present valley, Mr. Hamilton assigned their eruption to a period subsequent to its excavation. From one of them he traced a considerable stream of black, vesicular lava, and found that it encircled some of the smaller cones. The valley, between Hassán Dagh and the salt lake, is bounded on the south by low hills of the fresh-water limestone, which constitutes so great a portion of Central Asia; and on the north, by hills of red sandstone, calcareous conglomerates, sand, and marl. These strata are capped towards the east and north-east by beds of volcanic tuff, and a white pumiceous rock, which passes into trachyte; and still further east is a hill in which the sandstone rests on a trachytic conglomerate. From the volcanic rocks occurring in the hills both below and above the sandstone, as well as in the valley at the foot of Hassán Dagh, the author inferred that there had been igneous eruptions at very different periods, and that the latest proceeded from the cones at the base of that mountain. The lake of Kodj-hissar is said to be thirty hours, or leagues, in circumference; and the water is so highly charged with salt, that it contains no fish: if the wings of a bird also touch it, they become immediately incrusted and useless. The bottom of the lake is soft mud, incapable of bearing the slightest weight; but at the part examined by Mr. Hamilton, the mud was covered by a thick, solid crust of salt, which permitted him to traverse it on a horse. Between Kodj-hissar and Cesarea, a distance of about 180 miles, the country consists of the same sandstone system, sometimes containing gypsum, though, as far as the author could determine, no salt, and overlaid by beds of the lacustrine limestone, and volcanic tuff; but the latter also constitute large tracts, the fundamental rock of which is not visible. Granite also forms a range of hills, thirty miles in extent, between Kodj-hissar and Sari-karaman; and it likewise occurs between the latter town and Tatlar. Trachyte, serpentine greenstone, and basalt, were noticed at several places. To the north and north-east of Tatlar, Mr. Hamilton observed several volcanic hills, from which streams of basalt or lava had apparently flowed. In a ravine near that village, and in the valleys of Uch-hissar and Ujub, he noticed cones from 150 to 300 feet in height, consisting entirely of tuff. They are generally detached from the sides of the valleys, but are connected at their base; and from the manner in which they are grouped, they resemble at a distance a grove of lofty cypresses. These cones appear to have been formed out of thick beds of tuff by atmospheric agents, for on the side of the valleys they exhibit every stage of development, from the first indication of a mound, near the summit of the slope, to the full formed cone at the bottom. They are sometimes capped by a mass of hard rock, which projects over them like the head of a mushroom. One of Mr. Hamilton's principal objects in visiting Asia Minor, was to ascend the summit of Mount Argæus, and he is the first European traveller who has succeeded in the undertaking. This mountain rises abruptly from the alluvial plain of Cesarea to the height of about 13,000 feet, but sends out spurs

or projections to the north, and is connected at its eastern base with other ranges of mountains. It rises to a single peak, and resembles, in outline, the summit of Ararat. It consists of igneous products; and the highest part is the point of junction of two enormous broken craters, one of which opens to the north-east, and the other north-west. At the foot of the great cone, on the south-east, west, and north sides, are numerous smaller ones of pumice and lapilli, from some of which, on the north-west side, streams of basalt or lava may be traced. In conclusion, Mr. Hamilton expressed his regret that the general want of organic remains prevented him from offering any means of comparison between the rocks of the country described in this paper and the formations of Europe.

March 7.—The President in the chair.

A notice, by H. E. Strickland, Esq. F.G.S., was first read, on some remarkable dikes of calcareous grit, which intersect the lias shale, on the shore at Ethie, in Ross-shire. They are visible only at low water, and project from 1 to 3 feet above the surface of the lias shale. They exhibit no signs of lamination; but are frequently fractured transversely, and the grit, on being broken, presents the chatoyant lustre, so common in the Fontainebleau and other sandstones. Two of the dikes range parallel to the beds of shale; but a third, which sends off several branches, is in no part of its course parallel to them. The dikes were noticed by Mr. Murchison, in his examination of the coast of Scotland, in 1826, as well as similar ones in other places. Mr. Strickland offered no explanation of their origin, his only object being to draw the further attention of geologists to the phenomena which they present.

A paper by Mr. Darwin, Sec. G. S., was then read, 'On the connexion of certain Volcanic Phenomena, and on the formation of Mountain Chains, and on Volcanos as the effects of Continental Elevations.'

Mr. Darwin commenced by describing the phenomena which accompanied the earthquake that destroyed Concepcion on the 20th of February 1835; and he showed the intimate connexion which that event proved to exist between the shocks of an earthquake, the outbursts of volcanic eruptions, and the elevation of land. The earthquake was felt simultaneously at Concepcion, the island of Juan Fernandez, 360 miles to the north-east of that city, and in the island of Chiloe, 350 miles to the south of it; but he mentioned several instances of earthquakes having been felt over still greater areas. During the shocks the 20th of February, or immediately after them on the volcanos in the portion of the Cordillera opposite, Chiloe exhibited increased energy. Osorno, which had been in activity for at least forty-eight hours previously, threw up a thick column of dark blue smoke; and directly it had passed away, a large crater was seen forming on the S.S.E. side of the mountain. Minchinmadiwa also commenced a fresh period of violence. The Corcovado, at the time of the principal shock, was quiet; but a week afterwards, when the summit was visible, the snow had disappeared from the north-west crater; and on Yntales, to the south of the Corcovado, three black patches, resembling craters, were observed above the snow line after the earthquake, though they had not been noticed previously to it. The volcanos of Central Chile, and several within the Cordillera to the north of Concepcion, exhibited also great activity. A submarine volcano likewise burst forth near Bacalao Head. With respect to the connexion between the shocks of an earthquake and the eruptions of a volcano with an elevation of the land, Mr. Darwin repeated, on the authority of Captain Fitzroy, the fact, that not only was the main coast sensibly raised, but that the island of Santa Maria, thirty-five miles to the south-west of Concepcion, was elevated six feet at its southern extremity, and ten feet at its northern; and that the island of Tubul, to the south-east of Santa Maria, was raised six feet.

The author then proceeded to consider the formation of mountain chains, and the phenomena of volcanos as the effects of continental elevation. Mr. Hopkins, in his 'Researches in Physical Geology,' has shown, that if an elongated area were elevated uniformly, it would yield or crack parallel to its longer axis; and that if the force acted unequally, transverse cracks or fissures would be produced;

and that the masses thus unequally disturbed would represent the irregular outline of a mountain chain. In applying to the structure of South America these deductions from mathematical investigations, Mr. Darwin again dwelt upon the intimate connexion of all the phenomena detailed in the first part of his paper; and he showed, at some length, that they are all explicable on Mr. Hopkins's views respecting the elevation of great areas. In conclusion, he insisted upon the elevation of the Cordillera into a mountain chain by movements as small as those which have been noticed on the coast of Chile during earthquakes. The strata in the central parts of the Cordillera, are generally inclined 45°, and are often vertical; and the axis is composed of granitic masses, which, from the number of dykes branching from them, must have been in a fluid state when propelled against the lower strata. How, then, observed Mr. Darwin, could the strata have been placed at once in their present position, with wide intervals between them, without the very bowels of the earth gushing out, as in the case of volcanos? If, on the contrary, it be assumed that the Cordillera were elevated by a succession of very small movements, and after long intervals, the fluid rock would be retained, and time allowed for it to become solid, before the next movements would open the fissures. By a succession of such operations, the strata might ultimately be placed in any position, and at any height; and, the crystalline nucleus gradually thickening, the surrounding country would not be deluged with molten matter.

March 21.—Mr. Whewell, President, in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. Owen, on the dislocation of the tail, at a certain point, in the skeletons of many Ichthyosauri.

Mr. Owen commenced by observing, that the indications in the caudal vertebrae of the whale and other cetacea, of a large horizontal and tegumentary terminal fin, are so slight, that its existence would probably not have been suspected, had these animals been known only in a fossil state. He then proceeded to describe the condition of the tail in the skeletons of seven Ichthyosauri; and he inferred, from the vertebrae presenting, in each specimen, an abrupt bend at about one-third from the end of the tail, that there must have been something in the construction of that part of the animal to which this peculiar displacement was due. As there is no appearance of modification in the vertebrae, he is of opinion that the Ichthyosaurus had a broad tegumentary fin, constructed of dense but decomposable materials; and that, either by its weight or some other means, a dislocation of the vertebrae was produced, at the immediate point of attachment of the fin, when the decay of the connecting ligaments had sufficiently far advanced. Mr. Owen has observed in the form of the caudal vertebrae of Ichthyosauri, no indications of horizontality in the supposed tail; on the contrary, he regards the super-addition of posterior paddles in these air-breathing animals as a compensation for the absence of that form of tail, so essential in the cetacea for bringing the head to the surface of the sea to inhale the air. On the other hand, he conceives that a vertical tail was especially required by the stiff and short-necked Ichthyosauri to produce, with sufficient rapidity, the lateral movements of the head necessary in seizing prey. In conclusion, the author observed, that in the Plesiosauri a caudal fin would be unnecessary, in consequence of the mobility of the neck; and in perfect specimens of that animal, the tail presents no indications of partial fracture or bend.

An essay on the Primary Formations of England, by the Rev. Adam Sedgwick, V.P.G.S., was then commenced.

April 4.—Rev. William Whewell, President, in the chair.—A description of Lord Cole's specimen of *Plesiosaurus macrocephalus*, by Mr. Owen, was read.

It is impossible, in a brief analysis, to convey to our readers an adequate notion of the value of this paper. It was characterized throughout by comprehensive views of modification in structure to the wants and habits of the animal, and by the most admirable details of the minutest variations from those types with which the specimen was compared. The following leading distinctions, in three species, will interest our scientific readers:—

	Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus.	Plesiosaurus Hawkinsii.	Plesiosaurus macrocephalus.
Length of head to total length of the skeleton ..	1-13th	1-10th	—
Length of neck to head ..	4	3 *	2
Length of neck ..	Equal that of body and tail.	A little longer than body.	—
Cervical vertebrae ..	35	31	29
Dorsal vertebrae ..	—	23	20

In the ulna and radius Mr. Owen conceives that very marked specific differences exist. In *P. dolichodeirus* the ulna is as long as the radius, and slightly concave; in *P. Hawkinsii* the ulna is shorter than the radius, proportionately broader, and with a deeper cavity; and in *P. macrocephalus* the radius equals the ulna in length, but is proportionately broader and more concave than in either of the other species. From a minute examination of the structure of the head, Mr. Owen has ascertained that the Plesiosaurus has a greater affinity to the cranium, to the lacertine saurians than to the crocodilian; but that in the facial and maxillary bones the agreement with the former begins to diminish, while in the size and position of the nostrils we have one of those beautiful examples of adaptation of peculiar structure to the peculiar exigencies of the animal, which surpass all the restraints of a limited system of analysis and type.

April 25.—Mr. Murchison, V.P. in the chair.—Three communications were read:—

1. A notice of the occurrence of Wealden strata at Linksfield, near Elgin, by Mr. Malcolmson, F.G.S.

The country around Elgin consists principally of old red sandstone, but at Linksfield, about a mile south of the town, that formation is overlaid by a series of beds, formerly considered to be lias, but which Mr. Malcolmson has ascertained by their organic remains to belong to a fresh-water deposit of the age of the Wealden of England. The succession of the strata in descending order is as follows:—1, Blue clay with thin beds of compact shelly limestone. 2, Bands of limestone and clay. 3, Blackish clay. 4, Compact grey limestone with shells. 5, Green clay. 6, Red sandy marl enclosing rolled pebbles of granite, gneiss, &c., also angular fragments of old red sandstone. Among the fossils are *Cyclas media*, a common shell in the fresh-water strata of Sussex; an *Avicula*, which occurs in the lower purbeck beds at Swanwick, also remains of fishes, and great abundance of a new species of *Cypris* strata, the equivalents of the Wealden of England, were discovered in the Isle of Sky by Mr. Murchison in 1827. The Rev. G. Gordon has recently found the Linksfield fossils at Llanbryde, three miles to the eastward of that locality; also a *Pinna*, considered by Mr. James Sowerby to resemble closely a species belonging to the Portland sand; and in making the canal, by which great part of the Lake Spyne was drained, fossils were found belonging to the coral rag and the lias of England. Mr. Malcolmson therefore hopes that many of the formations above the old red sandstone, hitherto undetected in that part of the kingdom, will be discovered. He also announced that Mr. Martin, of Elgin, has found in the old red sandstone of that neighbourhood, among other remains of fishes, scales identified with those of the old red sandstone of Clashbennie. The paper concluded with an account of a series of raised beaches on the adjoining coast, from one of which fifteen feet above high-water mark, the author procured eleven species of existing testacea.

2. Notes on a small patch of Silurian Rocks to the West of Abergale, Denbighshire, by Mr. J. E. Bowmell.

The author's attention was first directed to these strata by Mr. J. Price, of Llysfaen. They occur immediately south of the narrow belt of carboniferous limestone which skirts the coast from the Great Orme's Head to the point of Air, and the estuary of the Dee. The section described by Mr. Bowmell presents the following series of beds in descending order, many of the fossils discovered in them being identified with those found in the Ludlow formations of Shropshire:—1, Carboniferous limestone. 2, Light-coloured loam enclosing rounded pebbles of greenish, slightly micaceous sandstone, with shells. 3, Bed of the same sandstone. 4, Red marl of considerable thickness, with imbedded angular and water-worn pebbles, and numerous fossils. 5, Arenaceous

conglomerate, consisting partly of the pebbles of the underlying limestone. 6, Thin beds of compact reddish limestone, sometimes very arenaceous, and containing a few fossils. 7, Blue clay. 8, Blue clay slate, occasionally enclosing layers of organic remains, and forming the geological base of the country.

3. On the origin of the Limestones of Devonshire, by Mr. Austen, F.G.S.

The object of this communication is to prove that the beds of limestone in Devonshire are ancient coral reefs, which were successively formed against the inclined strata of slate and sandstone. That they are in great measure composed of the remains of zoophytes, the abundance of corals in many localities fully attest; and Mr. Austen is of opinion that he has discovered in these old beds or banks of limestone indications of structure similar to that which has been noticed in the coral reefs of the Pacific. That the calcareous strata were not originally horizontal, and subsequently raised into their present inclined position, he showed by a section through the parishes of Ogwell, Denbury, and Abbots' Kerswell, a distance of more than three miles. All the beds of limestone in this district abound with organic remains of the same description. Supposing, therefore, the strata restored to an horizontal position, and the upper beds placed nearly on a level with the surface of the ocean, the lowest would be plunged to a depth at which it would be impossible for the animal of the coral to live.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—April 20.—Dr. MacIntyre, F.L.S., in the chair.—The Secretary read a paper from A. Wallis, Esq., on the genus *Myosotis*. The *Myosotis arvensis* is most usually found in corn-fields, or other highly cultivated land, where it sometimes reaches a considerable height. The *Myosotis sylvatica* is mostly found in shady places, where it assumes a stouter form than *M. arvensis*; the bristles of the stem are shorter, and the leaves will generally be found longer than those of *M. arvensis*. But would not the difference of soil and situation account for the more luxuriant growth of the one than of the other? There is another distinction also, for which neither soil nor locality would account; it is, that the calyx of *M. sylvatica* is more deeply cleft than the *arvensis*, and the tube of the corolla is longer in the former than in the latter; but Mr. W. was inclined to doubt whether these were sufficient to justify a specific distinction, and the more particularly so when we recollect that many plants are subject to slight variations in their structural minutiae. Admitting then that a difference of soil operates so powerfully in producing such varied and perhaps permanent distinctions of character, it will become a subject worthy attention how this peculiar operation takes place, and whether by close observation on the soil as well as locality, we may not be able to establish geological laws.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

Feb. 26.—The Rev. J. H. Todd exhibited the original of a charter granted to the Abbey of Mellifont, near Drogheda, in the county Louth, by John, son of Henry II., afterwards king of England. The charter was given at Castleknock, but the year is not specified. It must, however, have been the year 1183, when John, by confirmation of Pope Urban VIII. was appointed by his father, Lord of Ireland, (*Hoved.* fol. 359. d.) whither he accordingly went soon after, accompanied by 400 knights, some archers, and many clerks, (*clericis pluribus*), one of whom was Giraldus Cambrensis, who tells us of himself that he was *specialius a patre cum filio directus*, (*Gir. Cambr.* cap. 31, *Hoved.* fol. 360). John was not quite a year altogether in Ireland, having been compelled to abandon the country in consequence of the offence he gave to the chieftains of the Pale. The date of the charter is therefore sufficiently ascertained; in it John assumed the title of *Dominus Hiberniae*, the same which was adopted before by his father, and held by all the kings of England since that period to Henry VIII. But it is remarkable that he lays claim to the exercise of an independent sovereignty; the object of the charter being to confirm a previous charter granted by the king of England. Archdall appears to have seen this charter, but has given an imperfect and very inaccurate copy of it, (*Monast. Hib.* p. 480).

Professor Lloyd, V.P. read the following communication, contained in a letter from M. Abbadié, detailing the principal results of his scientific expedition to the Brazils. The letter is dated the 31st of August, 1837. "We made three observations every hour, day and night, from the 11th of February to the end of March. The instruments examined were, 1st, the horizontal magnetic needle; 2nd, the thermometer; 3rd, the barometer, *à niveau constant*; 4th, Saussure's hair hygrometer. The direction and force of the wind, state of sky, &c. were also observed. The variations of the needle were far greater than in Paris; the hours of maxima and minima agreeing very well together, except near the time of the sun's passage through the zenith of Olinda (lat. 8° 9' 38", long. 26° 19' W.) I then remarked two important phenomena; 1st, the extreme digressions, A.M. in one sense, became P.M. in the same direction, when the sun began to culminate in the other hemisphere, after passing through the zenith. 2ndly, this remarkable alteration was preceded by sudden and permanent changes in the variation of the needle, amounting to more than one degree. The first of these variations took place twelve hours after the sun's centre had reached a declination equal to the latitude of the place. All these sudden changes were accompanied with feeble storms confined to one small part of the horizon. Referring to the problem as laid down in the 'Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes' for last year, it would seem that the transition from the daily variations belonging to the northern hemisphere to those which characterize the southern part of our globe, is not on the magnetic equator, but depends on the sun's path in the heavens: and the sun acts here not as a source of heat, according to Captain Duperrey's supposition, but as a source or centre of magnetic attraction, if I may dare say so in the present uncertain state of science. The mean results of the observations made by us on magnetic intensity of forces, confirm very nearly the ratio between the equator and our latitudes, as first given by our distinguished countryman Captain Sabine. The dip was 13° 9', but varied a little under the sun's influence. The maxima and minima of the barometer's range, confirmed partly M. Boussingault's results. The mean temperature of the place, as given, 1st, by the daily observation of the thermometer; 2nd, the heat of springs; and 3rd, that of the ground at small depths, was 27.5 degrees; nevertheless, the bottom of an Artesian well, 200 feet deep, was 24.0 degrees, being much *colder* than at the surface. This was measured three times, as it seemed contrary to our received theories on a geocentric focus of heat. M. Selligue, of Paris, has succeeded in making a folding iron barometer, which has been observed every day after a thorough shaking. It has not altered its primitive error of .001 metre. I confess that I am rather sanguine about this instrument, which I shall carry with me to Egypt and beyond the Red Sea." M. Abbadié is at present in Abyssinia, whence he will proceed along the shores of the Red Sea.

Professor Lloyd communicated to the Academy the results of his observations on the diurnal march of the horizontal needle, made on the 31st of August and 13th of November, 1837. These observations having been made with the apparatus of Professor Gauss, Mr. Lloyd commenced by describing the construction and uses of that apparatus, the principal parts of which he exhibited to the Academy. He then explained the system of combined observation carried on under the auspices of that distinguished geometer, at so many places in Europe, and now, through the instrumentality of the Russian government, extended over the whole of northern Asia, and reaching even unto China. The results of this system hitherto obtained are, 1st, that the direction of the terrestrial magnetic force (estimated in the horizontal plane) is subject not only to a regular diurnal change, whose maxima and minima return at fixed hours, but also to *irregular perturbations*, which succeed one another with great rapidity, and which are not periodic. 2ndly, That these irregular movements of the horizontal needle occur at the same instants of *absolute* time, and are similar to one another, at the most distant places at which observations have been hitherto made. This synchronism in the movements of the needle, Mr. Lloyd observed, was so exact, that, with the instrumental means now placed at the disposal of observers by M. Gauss,

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unaware, and he was positive that no premium was he had no doubt but that a very close approximation might be made to the determination of geographical longitudes. Professor Lloyd then proceeded to lay before the Academy the results of the observations made in Dublin according to the methods described. The first series of such observations was made every five minutes during the twenty-four hours, commencing at noon (Göttingen time) on the 31st of August last. The observations were undertaken in compliance with the general invitation of Baron Humboldt, and on the occasion of the scientific expedition of M. Parrot to the North Cape. The results are laid down in curves, according to the usual method of graphical representation, and exhibit a remarkable disturbance occurring between 8 and 11 p.m. (Göttingen time). The observations made at the same time elsewhere are not yet published; but Mr. Lloyd has, through the kindness of Baron Humboldt, received a copy of the observations made at Berlin at the same hours, under the superintendence of M. Encke, and the agreement is very remarkable. The second series of observations was made every five minutes during the twenty-four hours, commencing at noon (Göttingen time) on the 13th of November last. These observations were undertaken at the request of Baron Humboldt, and with the view of ascertaining whether there existed any connexion between these perturbations of the needle, and the meteoric displays, which have been supposed to recur at that period in unusual frequency. The observations do not exhibit any very marked magnetic phenomenon; but on the following evening (November 14th) the needle was disturbed in a most unusual manner. It oscillated in very large arcs, and the maxima and minima of mean position succeeded one another with great rapidity. The whole range of the disturbance amounted to 1° 20'. The nights of the 12th, 13th, and 14th of November were cloudy in Dublin, and no meteors were observed.

Mr. Petrie gave an account of a very remarkable collection of stone circles, cairns, &c., situate in the townland of Carrowmore, in the parish of Kilmore, and about two miles from the town of Sligo. They are of the class popularly called Druidical Temples, and have, in every instance, one or more Cromlechs or Kistvaen within them. In some instances the circle consists of a single range of stones, in others of two concentric ranges, and in a few instances of three such ranges; and nearly the whole are clustered together in an irregularly circular manner, around a great cairn, or conical heap of stones, which forms the centre of the group. The circles vary much in diameter, number, and height of stones, and other particulars; and the Cromlechs also are of various sizes and forms. Many of these monuments are greatly dilapidated; but there are still existing vestiges of about sixty circles with Cromlechs; and as it is known that a vast number has been totally destroyed by the peasantry, there is reason to believe that the collection could not have been originally much less than double that number. They are all formed of granite boulders, except the covering stone and another of the Cromlech in the great cairn, which are of limestone. In all the circles, which have been either wholly or in part destroyed, human bones, earthen urns, &c. have been invariably found; and one circular enclosure, outside the group, and of far greater extent than any of the others, but evidently of contemporaneous construction, is filled with bones of men and animals. Mr. Petrie stated, that this is the largest collection of monuments of the kind in the British islands, and probably, with the exception of the monuments at Carnac in Brittany, the most remarkable in the world. From the design observable in their arrangement and uniformity of construction, he considers them all of contemporaneous age; and from the human remains found in all of them, he concludes that they are wholly of sepulchral origin, and erected as monuments to men of various degrees of rank slain in a battle, the great central cairn being the sepulchre of the chief, and the great enclosure outside the group the burial place of the inferior class. Such monuments, he stated, are found on all the battle fields recorded in Irish history, as the scenes of contest between the Belgian or Firvolg and the Tuatha de Danann colonies; and he considers these monuments to be the tombs of the Belgians, who, after

their defeat in the battle of the Southern Moy-Turey, had retreated to Cuil-Iorra, and were there again defeated, and their king, Eochy, slain in crossing the strand of Ballysadare Bay, on which a cairn, rising above high water, still marks the spot on which he fell. As monuments of this class are found not only in most countries of Europe, but also in the East, Mr. Petrie thinks their investigation will form an important accessory to the history of the Indo-European race, and also that such an investigation will probably destroy the popular theories of their having been temples and altars of the Druids.

The Dean of St. Patrick's read a paper giving an account of the Medals and Medallists connected with Ireland, from the period of Charles the Second (when the first medal was struck that had any reference to that kingdom) to the present time. They were classed according to the different reigns, and the events which they recorded were noticed. Some biographical memoirs of the Mossops, father and son, were also introduced: individuals of whom but little is known, even in Dublin, their native city, besides those works which have long been admired as worthy of the best days of the mediæval art.

Mr. Todd read a paper, by the late Dr. West, 'On the Ancient Geography of Gaul and the British Isles.' The principal object of this paper is to ascertain whether the Belgæ were of Teutonic or Celtic origin, and whether they spoke a Gaelic, or Irish, or a Cumric, or Welch dialect of the Celtic. The author inclined to the opinion that they were of Celtic origin, and spoke a dialect of the Cumric, more resembling the Cornish than the Welch, but different from the Erse or Gaelic. He brought many curious and valuable facts to support his theory.

A paper, by Mr. Carroll, 'On the Motion of the Boomerang,' was read. In this paper, the author seeks to explain the properties of the flight of the weapon, by assimilating the effect of the air's resistance on it to that exerted upon a flat circular disc.

Professor Lloyd, V.P., made a few observations upon the same subject, in which he endeavoured to show that the peculiar movement of this projectile was but an extreme case of acknowledged laws. When a body moves in a resisting medium, and when the resultant of all the forces of resistance, which act upon the several portions of its surface, is not contained in the vertical plane of projection, the body must deviate from that plane. This is generally the case in the motion of a body in a resisting medium. This effect of the air's resistance can be shown to be unusually great in the case of a body (like the boomerang) composed of two straight arms united at a large angle, and projected with a revolving motion; and hence the large resulting deviation in this case, amounting (as is known) to 180°. Mr. Lloyd observed, however, that this anomalous deviation was by no means peculiar to a projectile of this form; and that there were even other shapes which exhibited the property in a more remarkable manner. The other peculiarity in the flight of the boomerang, namely, its alternating ascents and descents, were ascribed by Mr. Lloyd to a mutation in the axis of revolution; the instrument (on account of its flat shape) being compelled to move in its own plane, which is also the plane of rotation. The motions of translation and of rotation of a heavy body in a resisting medium are not independent of one another, as they are in vacuo; and hence the variations of the progressive movement will produce corresponding variations both in the velocity and direction of the rotation.

Professor Lloyd read a letter from Mr. Knox, detailing some results of the performance of his rain-gauge, during the months of August, September, and October, and describing a mode in which these results were graphically registered. The following is an extract:

"Drawing from a centre eight lines, to correspond with the cardinal and intermediate points, I take on each line a space respectively proportional to the amount of rain that has fallen from that point during any month: connecting the point so taken, I get a curve (or rather an eight-sided figure) which exhibits at one view both the amount and character of the rain during the month. It also enables the observer to compare one month with another, and likewise to get a mean curve for the season, which may be of

great use in determining local climate. It is probable that the mean curve for the three winter months may have the same character, if not the same magnitude, during different years. The line for August, for example, has shot down far to the S.W. which was owing to a few violent thunder storms from that direction. The curves for September and October have gone more to the west; and it is probable that in Spring I shall find the curve extending more to the easterly side of the compass, as our then prevailing winds are from that quarter. Another important thing with regard to climate may be obtained by using this gauge in conjunction with Whewell's anemometer; for by drawing in the same manner and on the same paper, the amount of wind from each of the eight points for any month, we may see at once the comparative dryness or wetness of any wind, (I mean with regard to rain, not vapour,) which the mere amount of rain from the different directions would not give."

A paper was read, 'On some Snow Crystals observed on the 14th of January, 1833,' by William Thompson and Robert Patterson, Esqrs.

The crystals, which form the subject of this paper, were observed by the authors among the ordinary snow-flakes, in a shower which fell at Belfast on the 14th of January; the crystals appearing to constitute fully one-third of the snow that fell. Nineteen distinct forms were observed, and are described in detail in the paper. Most of them are identical with those delineated by Hooke, Nettis, and Scoresby; there are, however, which do not appear to have been before observed. They all belong to the 'lamellar,' or first of the genera into which they are divided by Scoresby. The size of the crystals generally exceeded considerably that of those observed by the above-mentioned authors; their average diameter being such that the naked eye could readily discriminate the various figures, as they lay on the dark ground. From the great variety of figures observed in the course of a very limited time (a single hour) it is inferred by the authors, in opposition to the opinion of Scoresby, that a considerable range of temperature is not essential to the production of very various forms. The weather for some days previous had been frosty, and the barometer gradually falling from about noon on the 12th. On the morning succeeding the day in which the observations were made, there was snow, succeeded by showers of sleet; and at noon a heavy rain set in, and continued without intermission the remainder of the day.

Professor Lloyd communicated the results of a paper 'On the Annual Decrease of the Dip in Dublin.'

It is well known that the dip has been diminishing in Europe from the time of the earliest observations, and that the rate of this diminution is not uniform. It is, accordingly, a question of considerable interest and importance to determine the precise amount of the annual decrease, for a given epoch, at any station. Conceiving that the observations of dip in Dublin, though extending over a very limited time (three years), were yet sufficiently numerous to furnish a close approximation to this amount, the author has put them together with that view. The observations are thrown into five distinct groups, those of the same group having been made nearly at the same time. The following are the results:

Date.	No. of Obs.	Dip.
I. Oct. 21, 1833	1	71° 0' 1
II. Sept. 9, 1834	10	71° 7' 1
III. Sept. 18, 1835	16	71° 5' 2
IV. April 25, 1836	8	71° 3' 9
V. Aug. 5, 1836	4	71° 1' 7

The observations of M. Kupffer clearly show, that the diminution of the dip is not uniform throughout the year; but that from December to May it is nearly stationary, the whole diminution taking place in the remaining eight months. For the convenience of calculation, we shall assume that the diminution takes place at a uniform rate throughout these eight months. It is evident then, that if δ denote the unknown dip at an assumed epoch, the 1st of January, 1836; δ' the dip observed at any other time; n the number of effective months in the interval; and ϵ the monthly decrease, each of the above results will furnish an equation of condition of the form

$$\delta + n\epsilon = \delta'$$

Combining these five equations by the method of

least squares, we obtain two resulting equations which give the most probable values of δ and ε . We thus find,

$$\delta = 71^\circ 3'.84, \quad \epsilon = 0'.297.$$

Hence the *annual decrease* of the dip in Dublin (or 8°) is 2°.38. The close agreement of this result with that recently deduced by Major Sabine, from his observations at the Regent's Park, is very remarkable. From these observations it appears that the dip has undergone a diminution of 39' at London, in the interval between August 1821, and November 1837, an interval of $16\frac{1}{4}$ years. The annual decrease, therefore, is 2°.40.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Westminster Medical Society	Eight, P.M.
	British Architects (Annual)	Three.
MON.	College of Physicians	Nine.
	Entomological Society	Eight.
	Society of Arts (<i>Ex. Illustrations</i>)	Eight.
	Architectural Society	Eight.
TUES.	Zoological Society, (<i>Sci. Business</i>)	1 p. Eight.
	Institution of Civil Engineers	Eight.
	Medical-Chirurgical Society	1 p. Eight.
	Geological Society	1 p. Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	1 p. Seven.
	Medico-Botanical Society	Eight.
	Literary Fund	Three.
THUR.	Royal Society	1 p. Eight.
	Royal Society of Literature	Four.
	Antiquarian Society	Three.
FRI.	Astronomical Society	Eight.
	Royal Institution	1 p. Eight.

FINE ARTS

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

This Exhibition, which is among the most pleasing, but, at the same time, the least varied, is again open; and though we miss some familiar pencils, it may be considered as very good. One of the most attractive of the historical drawings is Mr. Lewis's *Murillo painting the Virgin* (No. 129). The artist, supposed to be then resident among the Capuchins at Seville, is represented as surrounded by his patrons, standing before an easel, to which he is transferring a peasant group, under the guise of a Holy Family. The composition of this picture (for, from the quantity of body-colour employed, it almost ceases to be a drawing) is excellent; the arrangement of the group of models being, in particular, happy and natural. Mr. Lewis, with the wise purpose of being literally faithful, has made Murillo's sitters honest and unrefined—perhaps almost needlessly so, and beyond the power of any painter's "fine frenzy" to idealize. The heads of the monks are many of them pregnant with shrewdness; and a genuine monastic air, which recalls to us, though at a long distance, some of the interiors by the old Spanish masters, pervades the whole work, which greatly gains on close examination. Mr. Lewis exhibits another drawing, *The Pillage of a Convent in Spain by Guerrilla Soldiers* (322), which is hardly less clever, though of inferior interest as regards subject.

Another passage in a painter's life has been selected by Mr. Cattermole for his great work. No. 165, *Scene from the Life of Salvator Rosa*, in which Prince of the Picturesque is represented with an earnest and fearless industry, plying his art, in the midst of a stronghold of banditti—divides the suffrages for first prize with the drawing of Mr. Lewis. Mr. Cattermole possesses more of the spirit of romance than most contemporary artists—witness his love for such glimpses into armouries as *The Story of the Sword* (272), his selection of such subjects as *Trusty Tomkins' Sermon in Woodstock Church* (340). In his treatment of these, if the fulness of expression be sometimes missing, there is always evident a free poetical fancy in the arrangement of details, coming, perhaps, rather in the two instances than study (the difference between the two might be pertinently illustrated by comparing his works with those of certain modern French artists, yet more strict in costume and the properties). This discursive paragraph could almost spare us the necessity of further criticism on the *Salvator Rosa*. If the eye, in examining it, rests with more satisfaction on slouched hat and bandolier, on the carelessly arranged but profuse repast, and the plunder scattered upon the pavement, than upon the countenances of the young artist and his jovial hosts,—it is not because the latter are deficient in truth of expression, but that the charm of picturesque combination and arrangement of accessories is very

great. Some of the female heads are very beautiful; the colouring, too, is freer from Mr. Cattermole's usual tendency to *inkiness* than usual. Certain spectacled neighbours of ours complained of a want of finish in the drawing, particularly in the case of a pair of naked infants, who occupy prominent positions, and are little more than sketched in.

Miss E. Sharpe has aspired to the highest walk of art in her *Christ and the Mother of Zebedee's Children* (94). This is the best work we have seen from her hand; the grouping is clever, the colouring rich. In her subject:—Christ is represented as effeminate, where an affectionate but grave sweetness was alone required, and the mother is in beauty seductive rather than stately and commanding; but many of the secondary heads are very good; we may instance in particular that of the figure in the red garment who supports her. This drawing loses much from that satin glossiness of texture, and that tendency to exaggerate the more delicate flesh-tints which generally pervade the works of the artist, as well as those of her sister, Mrs. Seyffarth. The latter lady has also sent here some clever works; one, *A Tournay* (99), illustrates one of the most gorgeous and highly-wrought scenes in Mr. Ainsworth's "Crichton." We prefer, however, (No. 152,) *The New Page*, in which a young widow presents to a fortunate and wealthy beauty of high rank, her little son; while the boy, already charmed by the loveliness of his mistress (or that of the little girl who nestles at her knee) shows good promise of the archness and prowess of page-hood in his eager smile. This is a very pretty drawing; only chargeable with the monotonous liveliness of colouring and texture just referred to, and a certain affectation in the arrangement of the hands, which distracts the eye and destroys the repose of the whole.

And here, after having mentioned that Mr. Stepanoff, and Mr. Lake Price, and Mr. Chisholm, and Mr. Richter, and Mr. Stone, have contributed single heads and groups of figures, in most of which there is some and in none of which there is great merit,—we may descend a step in the scale of subjects and come to the works of Mr. Tayler and Mr. Hunt. Of these, however, it is needless to speak in detail; the former shows us Highland chieftains and children on horseback, troopers ancient and modern (337 and 355), precisely as we should have imagined he would show them, that is, without change in the mannerism of his colouring, which is far too slight and *bloomy*, and without change in the clever carelessness of his handling. Mr. Hunt, too,—who that meets his name in a catalogue cannot also see, without entering the exhibition-room, his clumsy hob-nailed peasant lads and lasses, busy in their petty mischief or their greedy pleasures? Who in his *Cymon and Iphigenia* (182), would not be prepared for the stare, anything but sentimental, with which he makes the enchanted lout devour the proportions of the rather dumpy “cynosure,” who sits half propped up,—and, we are sure, snoring audibly, against the barn-door? As for his *Marine Effect* (49), in which a qualmish boy is watched over by a well-dressed mother, there is something, to us, almost hateful in its literal truth.

We are now to speak of the best part of the exhibition,—its landscapes—but these must be dismissed compendiously. Copley Fielding exhibits, as usual, his half-hundred exquisite drawings, some five and twenty of which are sold as surely as the Exhibition opens. Prout, by his magical town views, almost entitles himself to the appellation of the Canaletti of water-colours. Mr. Bentley does not fulfil the promise made by him a twelvemonth since. Mr. Finch has some clever drawings (we may particularly instance Nos. 5 and 271), in a style which is a sort of compromise between that of Barret and De Wint; the latter artist, we may here add, is in his fullest force this year. The landscape, however, which we most covet for our own cabinet is Mr. Cox's *Returning from Hawking* (No. 18). This is his *chef-d'œuvre*;—a scene in the park at Haddon Hall, with a sober but golden sunset bronzing a rich mass of old trees and lighting up the ancient house of the Vernons in the distance. This king of antique mansions has been in constant request of late. The cleverest of many clever drawings here exhibited by Mr. Evans is a view of its terrace (71), in which the handling seems to us the exact and desirable compromise

between the over-finished tameness of certain ancient water-colourists and the splashy trickiness of certain moderns, who, do what they will, can never make their transparent materials emulate the breadth and boldness of oil colours. Mr. Harding has two beautiful drawings; one (84), *A Scene in the Valley of the Colne*, with harvest going on in the foreground, and groups of rustic figures, which are most excellent and faithful to real life; another, *Berncastel on the Moselle* (143), which, for its cheerfulness and clearness, without the slightest tendency to harshness, well entitles him to be called, what we heard him called, the Stanfield of water-colours. Mr. Hills has sent many cattle pieces, well stippled, but sadly mannered in their colouring and texture: Mr. Barret his usual proportion of striking sunsets and twilight compositions, and sketches taken

Under the shade of melancholy boughs.
We do not remember to have met Mr. Callow before; many of his landscapes are very clever; we must specify one, *Montpelier from the Aqueduct* (No. 236). But his is the only new name of promise to be found in the catalogue.

NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

This Society has given a sign of prosperity by removing from its old cabin at Exeter Hall to a sufficient, nay, at present too spacious, tenement in Pall-Mall, hard by the British Institution. But here also we have looked for signs of progress, and found fewer than it would have gratified us to discover. The general staple of the Exhibition remains where it stood a twelvemonth ago, on the scale of merit something below mediocrity. Mr. Campion's landscapes, if not the best, are the most ambitious, his *Welsh Peasants going to Market* (121) being the most important work he exhibits this year—a very clever drawing. His fault is the over-prevalence of a tone of colour, which makes his tints appear *burnt* where they should only be warm. Mr. Fahey's drawings, if less forcible, are, to our eyes, more pleasing; in such subjects, too, as his *Sunday Morning* (11), and his scene from the 'Pleasures of Hope' (218), where the "friendless man" leans over the cottage gate with his mournful

O! that for me some home like this would smile,— he combines figures with domestic scenery, with simplicity and success. Mr. Hardwick's *Doer Castle* (171) deserves to be singled out for its cleverness. Mr. Penley has some carefully-finished shore scenes, and Mr. Duncan half a score of good landscape drawings. Mr. Howe's *Goorshausen* (No. 19) is a favourable specimen of his powers; he is too fond of a conventional tone of colouring, of those grey and violet hues, which can only be legitimately employed to give the effect of distance and air, but which—see his spire of *Antwerp Cathedral* (236)—he exaggerates till any one, unused to the tricks of artists, might fancy that the buildings he represents are built of Derbyshire spar. Mr. Martin (too seldom to be found among our exhibitors, inasmuch as his works have always that peculiar character, and interest, which give life and attraction to the dullest patch of painted wall), exhibits *The Assuaging of the Waters* (149), with the broad sun rising over the peaceful expanse of ocean, and the dove plucking the olive branch from a straggling shrub clinging to a rock in the foreground. Perhaps a slight hardness, particularly in the retreating waves, is chargeable upon this drawing, but it is still very beautiful and full of poetry. Mr. Hage has many architectural drawings; one, *The Hall of the Magistrat du Franc in the Palace of Justice, Bruges*, (177) is one of the richest and most elaborate representations of a chamber adorned with sculpture and carving that we have seen since Wild laid his pencil by.

There are more figure-pieces in proportion to the landscapes here than in Pall-Mall East, but none calling for mention save W. E. Corbould's scene from 'Anne of Geierstein' (140), which is spirited and carefully finished, without being a miniature. Here, too, are several portentous illustrations to a forthcoming novel by Mr. James, which promise us splendid knights and loving ladies and terrible hair-breadth 'scapes without number. Mr. Rochard exhibits some female heads, more correct in their drawing than is usual with him, and Mr. Johnston a pair of Spanish ladies busy with love-letters (Nos. 79 and 182), which are characteristic, though ugly in feature.

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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.

This Evening, THE GIPSY'S WARNING; and THE MELTONIANS. THE GIPSY'S WARNING; with DEAF AS A POST; and THE BOTTLE IMP. (For the Benefit of Mr. Parsons, his Book-keeper.)

Tuesday, THE MAID OF ARTOIS; with TURNING THE TABLES; and THE DEVIL ON TWO STICKS.

Wednesday, HAMLET (Hamlet, Mr. Charles Kean); and the MAGIC FLUTE.

COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, AS YOU LIKE IT; with HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS; and ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Wednesday, ROMEO AND JULIET, and AMILIE.

Friday, a FAVOURITE PLAY.

Wednesday, THE LADY OF LYONS; with MATRIMONY; and JOHN OF PARIS. (For the Benefit of Miss Helen Faust.)

Thursday, JULIET, with Stenfeld's DIORAMA; and a New Farce, called THE VEILED PORTRAIT; or,

THE CHATEAU DE BEAUVAIS. (For the Benefit of Mr. Willmett, Stage Director.)

DRURY LANE.—An accident prevented our notice of M. Benedict's opera of 'The Gipsy's Warning' from appearing last week, and it is now too late to enter into any lengthened detail of it. M. Benedict—previously known to the public as a pianoforte player—has now most agreeably re-introduced himself in the quality of a clever composer; and his opera, which has been performed every night since its production, has already attained to a considerable and justly-awarded share of popularity. The choruses are, generally, effective and pleasing, and some of the ballads have both melody and simplicity to recommend them. We do not perceive, in this opera, any more than we did in Mr. Cooke's 'Amilie,' that servile imitation of other masters, which some, more critical than ourselves, profess to have discovered in both. In each case the composer has had to swim, as well as he could, with a stone of a drama round his neck, and in each case has triumphed over all obstacles. M. Benedict, it must be admitted, had rather the best chance—for, dull and incomprehensible as both dramas were when they left the hands of their authors, 'The Gipsy's Warning' had the advantage of being retouched by the humorous pen of Mr. Peake, who has done what he could to relieve its inherent dulness.

MISCELLANEA

The Dead Sea.—(From a Correspondent in the *Algemeine Zeitung*.)—In the very interesting article of your journal of March 24, on the 'Scientific Results of Prof. Schubert's Travels,' it is stated, among other matters, that this traveller had found the level of the Dead Sea to be 598 Paris feet below the level of the Mediterranean. At the same time a wish is expressed that a boat might be brought to the Dead Sea to explore it in its whole extent. I am able to inform you that this project was carried into effect just a year ago, by two Englishmen and my brother, W. G. Beke. They caused a boat to be brought by way of Jerusalem to Jericho, and put into the sea on the 29th of March last year, and travelled in all directions till the 17th of April, when they returned to Jerusalem. My brother then proceeded to Damascus, but Mr. Moore remained at Jerusalem, hoping to obtain from the Pasha of Egypt a Firman, to go by land to the east side of the sea. I have not heard that Mr. Moore undertook farther after my brother's departure; but while they were on the Dead Sea, together, they were able to navigate it, to take soundings of its depth in a great part of its extent, and likewise to make a sketch of a considerable portion of the shores. I believe that the result of their researches will be very shortly laid before the public. With respect to the level of the Dead Sea, the result of their investigation very nearly agrees with that of Professor Schubert. In a letter from Jerusalem, dated April 18, 1837, my brother writes, "According to the investigation which I have made, the Dead Sea is at the least 500 feet English below the Mediterranean. Jerusalem, according to my calculation, is about 2500 feet above the level of the sea, and the Mountains of Moab may be about as high, if not rather higher." This result of two independent investigations coinciding in assigning so extraordinarily low a level to the Dead Sea, is highly important; it proves that there is no ground for the opinion that has hitherto pretty generally prevailed, that before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Jordan took its course southwards, along the Wadi-el-Araba, to the Gulf of Akaba, for

as the surface of the Dead Sea, and consequently that of the Jordan, which flows into it, is, even on the most moderate estimate of my brother, at least 500 feet lower than the Mediterranean, and thus above 50 feet lower than the Red Sea, it is manifest that whatever may be the character of the country between the southern end of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Akaba, the waters of the Jordan could never have flowed in that direction. The greatest depth of the Dead Sea was found by my brother and his friend to be rather under 400 fathoms; in most places it was much less; this, however, is not essential towards the decision of the above question, which depends on the level of the surface of the water.

C. T. BEKE, Ph. Dr.

Leipzig.—British Consulate, March 29.

Marble Sarcophagi, found near Beyrouth.—We learn from the *Malta Gazette*, that Commodore Elliott, of the U.S.N., has collected many curious remains of antiquity during his cruise in the Levant; among the most interesting of which are two marble sarcophagi, found near Beyrouth, on the spot where once stood the city of Berytus. They were discovered sixteen feet under ground, while his ship was lying off that coast in August last, by a countryman who was planting a mulberry tree; and the Commodore lost no time in purchasing them, and had them immediately conveyed on board. Each sarcophagus is cut out of a solid piece of white marble, and each has its cover in the form of a sloping roof, also in one piece. With the exception of a fracture at the end of the larger one, they are said to be in a state of perfect preservation; for the sculpture on all sides is described as almost as good as when left by the hand of the artist. We are well pleased to have it in our power to add, that Mr. Giuseppe Hyzler, a well-known Maltese artist, has, with the permission of Commodore Elliott, taken correct drawings of these interesting antiquities,—the more interesting, because they were brought away by the Commodore as soon as discovered, and no time elapsed for their mutilation by the country people, nor have they suffered from the destructive hammers of curious travellers. From these drawings exact copies, or models, might be cut, at a trifling expense, in Malta stone; and an idea be thus preserved of the beauty of design of two monuments of Roman grandeur, which are about to leave the old world for ever. The admirable skill of the Maltese in such works is well known; but on this subject we would willingly refer the reader to an interesting letter which appeared in No. 519 of this Journal, and only express a hope that the opportunity will not be lost.

Riddle's Universal Pen-holder.—This is a novelty, and promises to be a very useful one. In general appearance it somewhat resembles Messrs. Bramah's pen-holder, but in this case the attached limb is naturally open, and kept so by a strong spring, and this tendency only counteracted by a sliding ring; the consequence is, that the ring being withdrawn, the attached limb opens of itself, and the pen falls out; whereas the removing in the old-fashioned holder is a dirty, and therefore an annoying process. Again, the exact size or thickness of the pen is of little consequence, as the pressure is regulated by the slide, which may be advanced more or less towards the extremity.

Rice—Indigo—Cotton—Tobacco.—In a late number of the *Southern Agriculturist* (U.S.) is a valuable article on the agriculture of South Carolina. It contains a good deal of curious historical and interesting information concerning those well-known staples of South Carolina, with which our own country has had, and still has so much to do. We have therefore made out the following summary of a portion of the article:—In 1693 a Mr. Smith, who had seen *Rice* in Madagascar, was governor of the colony. He had a piece of low land which he thought would do for the culture, could the seed be procured. At this juncture a vessel from that island, in distress, luckily put into the harbour, and the cook happened to have a small bag of the very article in demand! It was sown, flourished, and was distributed in all quarters. The swamp being found to be its proper soil, it became at once the staple; the Parliamentary Council so voted it; and the production amounted to 18,000 barrels in twenty years; in the next ten to 264,488; and to double that quantity in the ten which followed. In forty-three years from its introduction,

the regal government having now superseded the proprietary, the quantity raised in one season had reached 71,484 barrels. Such was the beginning of the culture and corresponding trade now so immense. Six years from the date last named, *Indigo* was introduced. It had been naturalized in the West Indies (from Hindostan), and Governor Lucas, of Antigua, incidentally sent a sample of the seed to his daughter in Carolina, she being fond of plants. She sowed it, again and again. It was cut off by frost and worms. She still persevered, and finally succeeded. The governor now sent over a professed indigo-maker, one *Cromwell*. Vats were made on the plantation, and the first indigo in Carolina produced; and the result was, that when this enterprising young girl was married, she received, as a rich dowry, from her father, the whole of the indigo raised that year on the plantation. Every body then took it up. The next season 200,000 lb. came to England. The new system flourished to a miracle; and before the war of 1775 the amount of its exportation was more than one million one hundred thousand pounds! After the war the English were supplied principally from India. Now came on the dynasty of *Cotton*. The land suited this plant, and the whole agricultural system of the state may be said to have been changed in a single season. This article, like indigo and rice, had been raised as early as 1680, but it was not considered as an export till 1747, in which year it appears, from an old pamphlet lately discovered, that seven bags of cotton wool, worth about 78 dollars, had been sent out of the province. During the war cotton was raised, from necessity, for coarse cloths. In 1794 it looked up a little. That year Whitney introduced his famous *gin*, which made cotton at once a staple, and gave all the southern states an importance in every way, which they never otherwise could have attained. In the season just named the exports were 8,340 bales. In forty years from that time they were 1,284,328 bales, to which amount some hundred thousands must now be added, we suppose, for the last two years. We think we have seen an account of 18,000 bales sold this season at Liverpool alone, in one morning, much more than three times the whole American exportation forty-four years ago! It is stated that the importation of that city is equal to 2000 bales a day. All the celebrated sea-island cotton of both South Carolina and Georgia has, it appears, sprung from a handful of seed sent over to a planter in the former province from his father, the Surveyor-general of the Bahamas. Such is the history of a single article of agriculture, the value of which has advanced from 32,000 dollars, in forty-four years to the enormous amount of about sixty-one and a half millions of dollars. A late American paper states that 330,000 bales of the new crop were received in New Orleans, from October 1, 1837, to the following February 16th. Of *Tobacco* not much need be said. It was early known, but the profit of cotton, and the bulkiness of the other article, soon settled the matter as a question of both agriculture and commerce. The history of the latter, in the more northern states, might indeed be curious. Poor King James, little bethought him when he published his Counter-Blast, that at this period more than sixteen millions worth of the manufactured luxury would be annually chewed, puffed, and sneezed away by the people of the United States alone.

Animal Magnetism.—The following is an advertisement which we copy from the Paris papers for the benefit of the credulous:—*Somnambulism.*—The Somnambulist of Dr. Pierre, during her magnetic sleep, acquires the faculty of ascertaining the internal condition of the bodies of such persons as are brought in contact with her; pointing out such diseases as they may be affected with, and the best mode of treatment for insuring their cure. She also declares their moral and intellectual powers and dispositions. She may be consulted daily at No. 247, rue St. Denis.

Botany.—M. Belanger, the East Indian traveller, has made great additions to the knowledge of Indian botany, either by furnishing more detailed descriptions of plants already known, or by the discovery of new ones. Among others is a new species of Orchid, growing on the *Mangifera Indica*; he has dissected many new cryptogamia, and notices 416 species; 84 of which have been hitherto unknown to botanists.

ADVERTISEMENTS

INCORPORATED LITERARY FUND SOCIETY.—The Members and Friends of the Literary Fund Society are respectfully informed that the **FOURTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTION** will be celebrated in Finsbury, on the **SATURDAY, May 29th**, when the Most Noble the Marquis of Lansdowne, the President of the Society, will take the Chair.

STEWARDS.

The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Palmerston, M.P. Joseph Neild, Esq. M.P.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop H. G. Ward, Esq. M.P.
of London. Colonel Torrens.
The Right Hon. Lord Teignmouth, M.P. Robert Bell, Esq.
Sir George Carroll. Richard Bentley, Esq.
Sir George Villiers. J. R. McCulloch, Esq.
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Wm. Finsfield, Esq. M.P. S. Salmon, Esq.
John Hon. B. Gough, M.P. C. Whiting, Esq.
J. Guest, Esq. M.P.
Tickets, 5s; each, may be had of the Stewards; or of the Rev. W. Landon, Secretary; at the Chambers of the Literary Fund Society, 4, Lincoln's Inn-fields; and at the Bar of the Free-masons' Tavern. Dinner, Six precisely.

WEST LONDON INSTITUTION,
53, BAKER-STREET, PORTMAN-SQUARE.
The following LECTURES will be delivered on **THURSDAY EVENINGS**, at 8 o'clock precisely:—

May 10, 17, 24, and 31—**On the EARLY ENGLISH POETS**, to the **LOSE OF the ELIZABETHAN ERA**.—By C. Cowden Clarke.
June 7—**ON PAPER MAKING**.—Edward Cowper, Esq.
14—**ON ELECTRICITY**.—John Hemming, Esq.
21, 28, July 5 and 12—**ON ACOUSTICS**.—H. Addams, Esq.
July 19—**ON MOLIERE and HIS WORKS**.—Mons. N. Lambert.
26—**ON the STUDY of HISTORY**.—Geo. John Shaw, Esq.

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TO LECTURERS and to MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

RULES of the WEST RIDING UNION of MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

First.—That the Society be called "The West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutes;" and that all Institutions including amongst their objects the intellectual advancement of the рапоры be admitted to the Union.

Second.—That the affairs of the Union shall be managed by a majority of the votes of the Delegates at the Annual Meeting; and that the Society shall forward to the Secretary of the Central Committee a written application

Third.—That the affairs of the Union shall be managed by a Central Committee of seven persons, of whom three shall be a quorum; and that the Mechanics' Institute of the place in which the Committee is located, shall be the head of the Union; and that the business of the Committee shall be, to negotiate with Lecturers of eminence on behalf of the associated Institutes, and to correspond from time to time with the latter, as opportunities of engaging Lecturers occur, to ascertain whether all or what number of the Institutes desire the services; and that Leeds be the seat of the Central Committee.

Fourth.—That the expenses of the Central Committee shall be exclusively confined to the costs of Advertisements, of the Correspondent, and of the Annual Meeting; and that the same shall be paid by the associated Institutes out of their Annual Income, derived from subscriptions of every kind.

Fifth.—That an Annual Meeting of one Delegate from each Institute having less than 200 members and subscribers, and of two Delegates from each of those having 200 or more, shall be held to receive the accounts of the year, to receive a Report of the Union for the preceding year, to appoint a new Committee, to fix the place for the next Meeting, and to confer upon any suggestions or new plans, relative either to the local management of Mechanics' Institutes, or to the business of the Union, that shall be proposed; and that on the last Wednesday of April, 1833; and that five weeks' previous notice of the same shall be given by the Secretary of the Central Committee.

SIXTH.—That fourteen days prior to the Annual Meeting, a Committee shall transact with the Central Committee a condensed Report of the operations for the year, and of its present state as to numbers and efficiency.

SEVENTH.—That no alteration in the laws of the Union shall be made, except at the Annual Meeting; nor shall any proposition be introduced that the Union shall not be dissolved, unless it shall have been sent to the Secretary of the Central Committee at least one month previous, and be given by him duly notified at least three weeks before the day of meeting to every Society in the Union, and that at the desire of two Delegates, any question shall be decided by ballot.

EIGHTH.—That no Society in the Union shall be allowed to separate from the Union, except at the Annual Meeting; nor unless, it shall have given one month's previous notice to the Secretary of the Central Committee.

NINTH.—That the Central Committee shall be required to call a meeting of Mechanics' Institutes, provided two-thirds of the Institutes in the Union request it so to do. The Central Committee in such case shall forthwith give one month's notice of the day of meeting to all the Institutes in the Union, and shall give sufficient details of its objects.

The Secretary of the Society is entitled to receive offers of suitable Lectures for the Society, especially Chemistry or Mechanics, with specimens and statements of terms. For the close continuity of the Towns associated, Lectures may be given in two places or more during the week: the Terms must be regulated by this consideration.

London, May 1, 1833.

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